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OPINION METER

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SAES teachers, principal flip burgers for a cause. PAGE 7

Fitial: I do sincerely apologize



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, delivers his State of the Commonwealth Address while press secretary Angel Demapan, right and House Speaker Eliceo D. Cabrera listen during the last session of the 17th House of Representatives yesterday morning.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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RELATED NEWS

> See complete text of SOCA speech on PAGE 10

Despite a dramatic walkout by five lawmakers, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial delivered yesterday his State of the Commonwealth Address during the last session of the 17th House of Representatives, in which he acknowledged mistakes and poor decisions and apologized to the public, vowing more transparency in government and presenting a better economic outlook for 2013. **See FITIAL on Page 4**



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Five walk out to protest SOCA

Incoming House speaker Joe Deleon Guerrero led four other representatives yesterday in walking out from the House of Representatives'

session when the body voted in favor of allowing Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to deliver his State of the Commonwealth Address.

Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) had strongly objected to having the House receive the governor's address.

Deleon Guerrero said the governor's

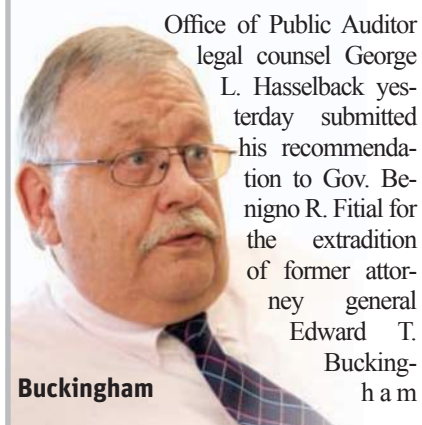
speech should be delivered before the 18th Legislature or the incoming body and not before the *sine die* of the 17th Legislature.

Deleon Guerrero also noted that the Senate has not agreed to hold

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OPA counsel recommends Buckingham extradition

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER



Office of Public Auditor legal counsel George L. Hasselback yesterday submitted his recommendation to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for the extradition of former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham.

to face criminal charges filed against him.

"Considering the seriousness of the charges pending against Buckingham, coupled with the fact that he occupied a significant position of public trust, the successful prosecution of this case should be a priority," said Hasselback, who has been designated as the special prosecutor in the case.

In a letter to Fitial, Hasselback said the case against the former attorney general cannot proceed without a warrant from the governor for Buckingham's extradition and the "ends of justice would be frustrated as the Com-

See OPA on Page 4

Oleai school bans parents from cafeteria

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

An altercation between two parents in front of students at the cafeteria of the Oleai Elementary School resulted in the school banning all parents and guardians from the cafeteria since last month.

That has prompted criticism from other parents who wish to continue to have access to the cafeteria so they could monitor and ensure that their children eat their breakfasts and lunches.

Based on the memorandum of interim Oleai principal Jacelyn Parico, all parents and guardians of Oleai school students will not be allowed to enter the cafeteria during school hours.

Saipan Tribune learned that the two parents' altercation that prompted the

new directive occurred on Dec. 10.

Calls to Parico were not returned yesterday.

A parent of a student from Oleai, Alan Villa, labeled the ban on all parents inside the cafeteria as "improper" and does not conform to the school's handbook of policies. Worse, he said, affected stakeholders were not consulted on the decision.

Villa has two children enrolled at Oleai, one of whom is a special child in sixth grade. Villa has been assisting his daughter for many years now when breakfast is served as early as 7am.

"I've been doing this in the cafeteria for many years and this is the first time I was not allowed access to the place. It's disappointing that such a directive was

See OLEAI on Page 4

Local

BOR says Hart decision not an 'expeditious action'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Despite having only two days to review and look into allegations raised by some faculty members against Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart, Ph.D., the Board of Regents insists that the process was properly executed and was performed to the best of their abilities, with the welfare of the community and students in mind.

Five regents—Juan Lizama, Elaine Orilla, Malua Peter, Andrew Orsini, and William Torres—emphasized this in their individual remarks during Monday's special meeting prior

to issuing their decision on the concerns raised by some faculty members against Hart.

From the initial determination that the no-confidence vote issued against Hart on Dec. 14 was invalid, the regents on Monday ruled anew that most allegations—including fiscal mismanagement and abuse of power—were baseless and unsubstantiated.

"I want to make it clear that this was not an expeditious action. We spent two full days [on Thursday and Friday] and we have acted pretty much diligently," said board chair Lizama, who admitted that the no-confidence vote placed the board in a

quandary in the last few weeks.

The college president is the sole employee of the Board of Regents.

The board's decision disappointed many faculty members who claim that the action was railroaded to favor the president.

Lizama disputed this, saying, "It would not be fair for anyone to say that the board did not act or work on this matter... because this is not an easy task. We are pretty certain that we've done it correctly."

Regents Peter and Orilla backed Lizama, reiterating that the decision was made in the best interest of NMC stu-

dents. Both recommended the establishment of an effective collaboration between Hart and the faculty for the sake of the institution.

"I think we did our part as board members. I hope the president and the faculty clear things out because we rely heavily on the faculty and the president to lead this institution," said Orilla.

For regent Orsini, faculty concerns should be brought to the proper channels prior to reaching the board level. He emphasized the organizational structure of the college that must always be considered by everyone.

The no-confidence vote and

the decision rendered by the board, according to regent Torres, will serve as a learning experience for him and his colleagues.

For her part, Hart commended the regents for taking the time to address the issue and echoed the regents' views about the importance of "team effort" and "working together" for the college. She vowed to continue practicing transparency and an open-door policy for everyone.

She encouraged employees—both faculty and staff—to resolve similar concerns internally the next time to prevent an "unhealthy situation" from arising at the college. She promised to

"sit down, listen, and address" whatever concerns are brought to her table.

"When you do have issues and concerns, bring them forward in a manner that is respectful and honest. Believe me, I am willing to sit down and listen," Hart told the crowd composed mostly of faculty members.

Hart and Lizama are scheduled to fly next week to San Francisco to attend the accreditation commission meeting where NMC's accreditation status will be decided.

NMC's accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges is currently on continued probation status.



INFORMATION SESSION

NMC's dean of Student Services Leo Pangelinan speaks to prospective students during last Monday night's Information Session for the spring 2013 semester held at the NMC As Terlaje campus. The spring 2013 registration begins on Monday, Jan. 14, 2013.

NMC

Car-burning suspect is in WA for mental evaluation

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Aziz Peter Mettao, the suspect in a car-burning case last year, had been admitted to the Federal Detention Center in Washington for a competency evaluation, according to U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona.

In her order issued Monday, Manglona said the psychiatric or psychological examination is intended to determine Mettao's competency to proceed with the case.

Mettao is a former disc jockey who is facing charges for allegedly burning a vehicle owned by Power 99.

Manglona suspended all proceedings in the case pending the result of Mettao's competency report.

The mental examination was ordered on Nov. 9, 2012, after it was learned that the suspect, prior to his arrest, was working with the Veterans Affairs Office in Guam to get mental and medical attention.

F. Matthew Smith, the court-appointed counsel for Mettao, asked the court to hold a hearing to determine whether the 27-year-old Mettao is competent to proceed with the trial.

Last Jan. 7, Manglona received a letter from federal detention warden Jack Fox, informing her about Mettao's admission on Dec. 19. The competency evaluation is expected to be completed within 30 days and Fox asked Manglona that this period commence on the date Mettao was admitted to the facility.

Fox proposes to submit a final report on Mettao's evaluation no later than Feb. 1, 2013.

"Because the defendant did not arrive at FDC SeaTac until Dec. 19, 2012, we are requesting the 30-day study begin on that date. If you concur, the study period will end on Jan. 18, 2013, with the final report being submitted to you no later than Feb. 1, 2013," states Fox's letter to Manglona, who granted the warden's request on Monday.

Mettao is suspected of setting fire to a Hyundai Tucson owned by FM radio station Power 99 in western Garapan in the early morning of Sept. 10, 2012.

He allegedly used beer bottles that he filled with flammable liquid to burn and damage the vehicle. He was charged with malicious use of explosive materials, a felony that carries a maximum term of 10 years or more in prison.

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Saipan, Tinian landmarks star in German film out in spring

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A German filmmaker travelled to the Northern Marianas last year to shoot scenes for a movie that is scheduled for release this spring.

Heinz Emigholz, who founded the production company Pym Films in 1978, was on Saipan and Tinian from April 5 to 12, 2012, with colleague and fellow artist Ueli Etter to work on the film *The Airstrip—Decampment of Modernism*.

The two-hour film is the last installment of a series of films about modern architecture that have been shown worldwide in cinemas, film festivals, and were especially acclaimed in the United States, said Emigholz.

"It will contain several scenes with concrete ruins of Japanese military buildings on Saipan, and 'Northfield' on Tinian with its concrete loading pits for the atomic bombs Little Boy and Fat Man," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that



Emigholz

the principal photography for the movie was done all over the world in 62 days.

Emigholz, 64, said that his reasons to come to Saipan were manifold. He has studied and written about the Pacific War for decades, and loved the film *An-*

atahan by Josef von Sternberg since childhood. *Rat Beach*, a story about 1945 Saipan written by William Styron, also piqued the interest of the professor for Experimental film at Berlin University of the Arts.

What finally convinced him, however, was the book *The Roman Pantheon: The Triumph of Concrete* by the late American war veteran David Moore and published by the University of Guam, which he came across when he did a film about the historical and one of the best-preserved structures.

"He was a civil engineer and his book is the best about the Pantheon I ever read," Emigholz told *Saipan Tribune*, saying that Moore's book also led to his discovery of Moore's website, www.battleofsasipan.com. "I definitely will come back to Saipan and stay some time to work on a book."

When Emigholz returned to Germany following his brief stay in the Northern Marianas, members of the German group

Kreidler approached him and asked him to do a video for a track in their new album *Den* released last Oct. 5.

Founded in 1994, Kreidler combines electronic and analog instruments and is categorized by critics, depending on the publication, as electronic music, pop, avant-garde, post rock, ambient, neoclassical, krautrock or electronica.

"I listened to their material, liked it and decided to do clips for all seven tracks," said Emigholz, adding that he used materials shot in the CNMI for

the videos of two tracks.

He used the shot during the ride to the loading pits on Tinian for the video for Rote Wüste (Red Desert), which was released a month before Kreidler's album came out "and became very popular."

Meanwhile, Emigholz used shots of La Fiesta, the site of the

Japanese Banzai attack on July 5, 1945, for the video of Sun.

The Rote Wüste video, which has 5,804 views as of press time, can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkuIMV-tUGc> while the Sun video, which has 2,128 views, can be accessed at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Efw_Zpg71E.

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Guam search and rescue exercise a success

APRA HARBOR, Guam—Search and rescue agencies across the island kicked off the first search and rescue exercise of 2013 yesterday morning.

At approximately 9am, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Bob Sajnovsky, as part of a planned exercise, called for help on the radio from his 20-foot Bayliner reporting five persons fell in the water after his vessel had taken a large wave over the side one mile off Tanguisson beach.

"While this was only a simulated event, with a small craft advisory currently in effect throughout Marianas waters this was a very realistic scenario," said Lt. j.g. Rich Russell, search and rescue exercise coordinator. "Deciding to operate a vessel in

these environmental conditions unprepared can be a dangerous proposition even for the most experienced mariner."

Jetski crews from Guam Fire Rescue, Police and Customs and Quarantine partnered with rescue crews from the Station Apra Harbor and Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 to respond to the exercise distress call. The team successfully located and recovered five rescue dummies in just under an hour, after the initial call.

"The Coast Guard relies on a number of partners from both DoD and the Government of Guam to rescue those in need, both on land and at sea," said Lt.

Cmdr. Morgan Roper, search and rescue mission coordinator for Sector Guam. "These types of exercises help agencies hone critical skills, learn from mistakes and improve interoperability when lives are not a stake".

Coast Guard Sector Guam reminds mariners year round to always be prepared before getting underway. Wearing a lifejacket, carrying a VHF radio and filing a float plan can save your life. Do your part and help take the search out of search and rescue.

For more information about float plans, visit: www.float-plancentral.org. (USCG)

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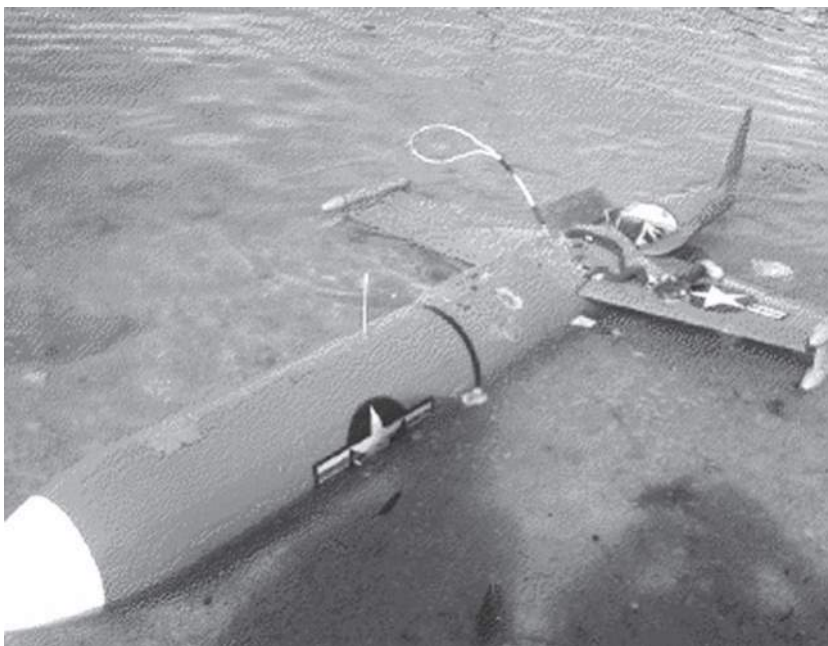
US: Drone in Philippines likely from Guam drill

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—U.S. officials say an unarmed drone found off the Philippines was launched from a U.S. Navy ship during a combat exercise off Guam last year and may have been washed by ocean currents toward central Masbate province.

U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Bettina Malone said Tuesday that the BQM-74E drone was launched from the USS *Chafee* in September.

The Philippine navy deployed a ship with ordnance experts after a diver and fishermen who found the drone over the weekend reported it may have been a bomb. The discovery sparked concerns because U.S. troops are allowed to engage in exercises with local troops but are legally barred from engaging in combat operations in the country.

Philippine diplomats have been assured by U.S. officials the drone was neither armed nor used for surveillance.



In this Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013 photo released by the Office of the Deputy Commander Naval Forces, Southern Luzon, a suspected American drone, is brought ashore off Masbate Island in Central Philippines. AP

OLEAI

From Page 1

issued without even consulting the affected parents about their opinion and views. This is not even cited in the school's handbook!" the frustrated father told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Villa, since the memorandum took effect, he has been "turned away and harassed" thrice by a few schoolteachers each time he attempts to assist his daughter during meal breaks.

Villa said he witnessed the incident on Dec. 10 when two parents engaged in a heated argument in front of the students. Unfortunately, he said, instead of counseling the parents involved in the incident, the principal made the decision to "punish" all guardians and parents.

Based on Parico's memorandum, "we have teacher/staff that are assigned inside the cafeteria to supervise

and to monitor students. We would like to keep our campus safe for everyone, most especially our students."

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D, came to the defense of the school principal yesterday and affirmed her support for the principal and teachers who made the decision.

Sablan said school administrators have all the right and authority to decide for their schools when it comes to ensuring the security and protection of all students on campus. Although she has no personal knowledge about the incident in Oleai, Sablan is convinced that the ban was issued with the best interest of schoolchildren and staff in mind.

Sablan expressed disappointment over the unacceptable misbehavior of some parents, who should be role models for students. Differences between and among parents and adults, she said, should not be ironed out in school. "We don't need those problems in our schools."

OPA

From Page 1

monwealth's interest in seeing its laws upheld would be thwarted."

The OPA counsel said the request for extradition is not being made to

vindicate any personal claims against Buckingham, but pursuant to the prosecution of a criminal case.

Hasselback cited that, as the CNMI Superior Court and the CNMI Supreme Court recognized, Buckingham left the CNMI with full knowledge that criminal charges had been filed against him.

Attorney General Joey San Nicolas assigned Hasselback as conflict counsel in this matter as the former and the Office of the Attorney General had potential conflicts in the case.

San Nicolas asked Hasselback to prepare an analysis and recommendation on the extradition matter to be submitted to

Fitial no later than Jan. 10, 2013.

San Nicolas designated Hasselback as special prosecutor to assess the criminal charges against Buckingham and to determine whether the interest of justice requires the latter's extradition.

OPA filed seven criminal misdemeanor charges against Buckingham.

An FBI special agent reportedly served Buckingham with the penal summons at the Saipan international airport shortly after he and his wife left Saipan at 6am Delta flight to Narita, Japan on Aug. 4, 2012.

OPA filed seven criminal misdemeanor charges against Buckingham.

FIVE

From Page 1

a joint session just to receive Fitial's SOCA.

House Speaker Eliceo Cabrera (R-Saipan) explained that he invited the governor to deliver his SOCA in conjunction with his annual financial report.

When the House's legal counsel stated that Fitial can deliver his address,

the body decided to hold a vote.

Deleon Guerrero's objection was defeated, 10-9. The eight others who voted against the SOCA were Reps. Ray N. Yumul (IR-Saipan), Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), Trenton Conner (IR-Tinian), Edmund Villagomez (Covenant-Saipan), Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan), Ralph Demapan (Covenant-Saipan), and Ramon A. Tebuteb (IR-Saipan).

The defeat prompted Deleon Guer-

rero and four others—Yumul, Dela Cruz, Sablan, and Conner—to stand up and walk out of the chamber.

Cabrera ordered a five-minute recess. After a few minutes, Fitial entered the chamber and delivered his State of the Commonwealth Address.

In a later interview, Yumul said the governor should have done this address sooner and at least give the courtesy to the incoming 18th Legislature, especially to new members that want to hear his

plans and how he wants to address the economic status of the CNMI.

"Once we come in as the 18th Legislature, if the governor wants to come back and restate his address, I will be more than happy to hear it," Yumul said.

Sablan said the governor has gone on the record in past years that he does not need to appear before any body at the Legislature to present his SOCA.

"Why present the SOCA to the out-

going Legislature?" Sablan asked.

Sablan said the incoming 18th Legislature should be afforded the opportunity to hear the state of the Commonwealth and the governor's future economic and

Speaker Cabrera said the governor delivered the State of the Commonwealth Address at his invitation. "It's an invitation that he can say no or yes. It's a message to the public," Cabrera added.

FITIAL

From Page 1

"You are disappointed in your governor, and you think I should have done better. I too am disappointed. I have made mistakes. I acknowledge that," said Fitial at the beginning of his address that lasted 45 minutes.

Besides lawmakers, others in attendance were Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexander Castro, Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, several Cabinet members, government employees, and some businessmen. Several police officers were also in the premises.

Before the governor's speech, the House voted 10-9 to allow Fitial to deliver his address. The vote prompted a walkout by incoming House speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), Reps. Ray N. Yumul (IR-Saipan), Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), and Trenton Conner (IR-Tinian). (*See related story*)

In his speech, Fitial, who was sitting by the table of the House's legal counsel, acknowledged that he did not see soon enough how devastating the economic forces blowing down on the CNMI would be.

"I was too optimistic that we would get enough help from the federal government to dig out of this economic black hole we are in," he said.

Fitial attributed his errors of judgment and poor decisions to the lack of

reliable information.

"I trusted people who could not perform what they promised. I also have, at times, blamed people for things they could not have avoided," he said. "I want you to know that I have thought deeply and carefully about my own mistakes, and I am determined that I will not repeat them."

Rosy future

Fitial went on to paint an optimistic future for the CNMI and highlighted the economic activities that are lined up for 2013. He cited the high hotel occupancy rate, additional investments, and more charter flights that, according to him, are promising signs of the beginning of economic recovery.

He said that just last month, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a hotel occupancy rate of 74.53 percent—a 9-percent increase over the previous year.

E-Land Group has already presented a development plan to revitalize the Coral Ocean Point and the Palms Resort Hotel this year, he said. "This renovation will add significant construction jobs in 2013 and increase the number of high quality accommodations."

Fitial said there are reliable indicators that there will be a "very modest improvement" in the number of Japanese tourists in 2013 and in the coming years.

Among Korean tourists, Fitial said the CNMI has reaped a lot of benefits from the investments made by the

Kumho Asiana Group after acquiring the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort in 2007, investing more than \$50 million and adding passenger air service flights to the Commonwealth.

He noted that the CNMI's annual Korean arrivals have even surpassed those of Guam and this has brought more Korean hotel investment.

Fitial was particularly upbeat about the China market, which he said has been emerging exponentially.

"That is why I exerted all efforts to travel to key cities in China and to work closely with the owners of the Tinian Dynasty, Century Tours, and Tan Holdings to make a strong push to steer Chinese tourists to the Northern Marianas," he said.

Saipan is now second only to Australia and Phuket, Thailand in terms of popularity and increased visitor rates for Chinese travelers, he said, while Bali and the Maldives trail behind Saipan.

As a result of these efforts, Fitial said three wide body charter flights have just been added, bringing a maximum of 300 passengers per flight from China.

"As a result of this anticipated growth from the China market, DFS Saipan is poised to undertake renovations at the main Galleria shopping center," he disclosed.

The goal for 2013, Fitial said, is to establish two new daily flights to China that would provide the CNMI with the opportunity to access a quarter of a million new tourists per year in coming years.

The governor promised to work closely with hotel owners to address the need to upgrade and renovate the hotels in order to increase the quality and rates of rooms.

Fitial cited that during the holiday season that just passed, the CNMI experienced a major lack of hotel rooms for tourists. "At the peak of the season, our major hotels reported a shortage of more than 100 hotel rooms," said Fitial.

To address the problem, he said the government will work with interested investors to revive the defunct Plumaria Resort and Riviera Resort to add more rooms to the inventory.

Transparency

For 2013, the chief executive promised to pay attention to transparency.

"One of the mistakes I have made in the past was not to pay enough attention transparency in government. I tried to consult widely, but sometimes I thought I had to act quickly in order to secure a benefit for the Commonwealth," Fitial said. He acknowledged that acting without transparency decreases confidence in the government.

For government employees, Fitial has good news: The administration will not eliminate government jobs or require reductions in hours this year.

He disclosed two transportation projects this year: a feasibility study for the creation of a public bus system that will provide cheap public transport for residents and tourists alike and an inter-island ferry with Guam as a way

to lower the costs of goods and draw tourists from Guam.

Power agreement

Fitial also weighed in on the controversial power purchase agreement, saying he entered it in order to entice the construction of a shipyard rebuilding facility. "If constructed, this facility would provide at least 1,000 highly paid jobs that would revive and expand our economy," he said.

He said the opportunity to create more jobs while providing a more efficient replacement of the aged power plant inspired him to act in an expeditious manner.

"In retrospect there should have been more public involvement, and for this I do sincerely apologize," he said. "I apologize for the turmoil that this endeavor caused, but Attorney General [Joey] San Nicolas' latest position will allow for a full examination of the merits of this proposal and the need to address the long-term power needs of our community."

Fitial also mentioned, among other issues, the NMI Retirement Fund problem, the transition to Social Security, and the status of the Commonwealth's healthcare system.

In concluding his address, Fitial said some progress were made in 2012 while the outlook for 2013 is better. "I will improve my own methods, including more consultation and transparency," he said. *See complete text of SOCA speech on Page 10*

Former WPS principal eyes new defense

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thomas Weindl, the former principal of Whispering Palms School who is accused of accessing child pornography, told the federal court Monday that he may present a new defense in his case.

Through his counsel, O'Connor

Berman Dotts & Banes, Weindl claimed that because he was not able to view the alleged pornographic images, he can use this as an affirmative defense for his side.

Weindl is charged with receipt of child pornography and

» Weindl claims alleged child porn images not viewed, accessed

access with intent to view child pornography.

In documents filed on Jan. 7, Weindl said that Congress has provided that it is an affirmative defense to both of these charges if the pornography does not contain images of

minors, or the pornography was not produced using any actual minor or minors.

According to Weindl's lawyer, "receipt" is not defined by the statute. The government, the lawyer added, can only prove receipt if a defendant downloads images. It is unclear what would qualify as "receipt" short of downloading, they added. They pointed out that the Court of Appeals has determined that merely accessing, visiting, or going to child pornography sites, while still a crime, does not qualify as "receipt."

Weindl's counsel cited *Aguilar-Turcios v. Holder*, which was decided just five months ago where the Court of Appeals ruled that a defendant cannot be convicted for receipt of child pornography when all he did was obtain access to pornographic Internet sites. The Ninth

Circuit held that merely visiting or accessing Internet sites is not enough for a conviction.

According to E-blaster reports that were the subject of Weindl's motion to suppress, Weindl attempted to download from seven different sites that may contain child pornography.

However, it was noted that neither the defendant or even the government has been able to access those files as the "live" E-blaster reports that contain "active" links to the suspected downloads cannot be accessed as they are on special agent Edmund Ewing's computer. The files themselves, counsel added, are windows executable files—meaning files cannot be viewed on Ewing's computer. To date, neither Weindl nor the government has viewed or accessed those images, Weindl's counsel added.

Weindl believes that "extraordinary circumstances" exist in the case because neither he nor

the government knows if those files contain pornographic or, even if pornographic, the images are of minors or adults.

FBI agents arrested Weindl in June this year for allegedly using a laptop to view child pornographic materials. According to the complaint, the Public School System-issued netbook was issued to the son of an FBI special agent. The agent and his family were transferring to the U.S. mainland so he returned the netbook to Weindl. The special agent, however, had installed an "e-blaster" on the netbook in 2011 in an effort to monitor his son's Internet use. E-blaster is a commercially available computer and Internet monitoring software program. Soon after the agent turned over the netbook to Weindl, he began receiving "e-blaster" reports indicating that the netbook was accessing child porn materials on the Internet from about June 15 to June 18, 2012.

NMHC sets interviews for deputy corporate director

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Candidates for the position of

NEWS BRIEFS

Power outage on Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a power interruption on Saturday, Jan. 12, 2013, from 8:30am to 12:30pm to replace a rotting power line on Dandan road directly in front of the Dandan Elementary School.

The purpose of the interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow the CUC line crew to safely perform system maintenance. In addition, another crew will replace a rotted power pole in the upper Dandan Homestead area near Gatbo Ave. Water services may be effected in the area during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the powers is re-energized.

Areas affected include Kiya 1 (2nd partial) from the former San Vicente Round House south on Dandan Road to the Flame Tree Road intersection and east toward the Hawaiian Rock Quarry to the Obyan areas.

Because of the scale of the work that will be performed, travelers are asked to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the affected areas. (CUC)

Air Force training on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla from Jan. 9 to 11, from 9am to 4:30pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (PR)

deputy corporate director at the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. are scheduled for interview next month, according to corporate director Jesse Palacios.

Palacios said the NMHC board has wanted to hire a deputy corporate director for quite a while now but announced the position only recently.

"Given the additional federal programs that we administer, a deputy is warranted to lessen the load of the corporate director," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The new position was opened to applicants on Nov. 26, 2012, with the deadline on Dec. 12, 2012.

Palacios declined to disclose the number of applications they received.

The announcement, published in the newspaper several times, states that the salary for the position is \$58,000 per annum.

Meanwhile, Palacios confirmed that the chosen candidate for the position of Mortgage & Credit Division manager will report to work on Monday.

"Aside from his credentials

(JD and MBA degrees), government and private sector experience, he did very well in the interview session," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Palacios, they received a good pool of applicants for the position he vacated after he became the agency's corporate director in August 2012.

The successful candidate will receive an annual salary between \$28,807.51 to \$49,266.21, depending on education, training, and experience.

"We expect the manager to have a strong financial background and analytical skills," added Palacios.

NMHC is the Commonwealth's key provider for housing, mortgage, and community development programs.

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**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM- OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB13-GOV-057

Repair of the Rota Health Center Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, are soliciting sealed bids for Repair of the Rota Health Center Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on January 10, 2013 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of Twenty Five Dollars (\$25.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill.

All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid package in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A site visit and pre-bid meeting will be held on Rota at the Rota Health Center on January 16, 2013. Participants are to meet promptly at the Rota Health Center, Director's Office at 10:00AM. Questions regarding this project may be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth Balajadia, CIP Project Manager, CIP Office, Capitol Hill, Saipan or via email to balajadiaelizabeth@hotmail.com or facsimile to (670) 664-2408 no later than January 24, 2013.

Sealed bids must be marked ITB13-GOV-057 Repair of the Rota Health Center Fire Alarm and Sprinkler System. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00AM local time, Friday, February 8, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00AM local time February 8, 2013, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@ptcom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than February 8, 2013 and must be received no later than February 15, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 1:00PM local time, February 19, 2013. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open and read at 1:00PM local time on February 8, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the Procurement and Supply Director to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Government Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Fifty (150) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) Two Hundred Fifty dollars (\$250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 150 calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, CNMI Lt. Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Arts Council seeks venue for exhibits

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture is now looking for a venue for its upcoming Women's Exhibit this March, according to traditional and visual arts coordinator Darrell Moteisou.

The Women's Exhibit is one of the three major exhibits hosted annually by the council to help local artists promote their artwork and find suitable markets for their products. The other two are the Cultural Heritage and Arts Pacifica Exhibit as part of the Cultural Heritage Month celebration in October

and the Christmas Exhibit in December.

Moteisou said these exhibits serve as a platform where traditional and contemporary artists in the CNMI can showcase their creativity and passion for art.

In January 2012, the council added another exhibit—the Island Artist Exhibit—but Moteisou said the lack of venue is the main reason why they were unable to host it this month.

Finding a venue for its annual exhibits has been a challenge for the council, he added. Should they find a suitable venue, Moteisou said the council will squeeze in all four exhibits in their 2013 schedule.

"We're looking for a venue that is strategically located in proximity to our tourists and with enough space to accommodate the works of our artists," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Moteisou is asking hotels and other establishments to assist the council by providing them a venue for the exhibits.

"I plan to meet with hotel managers in the coming days and invite them to host the exhibits," Moteisou added.

For more information, visit the council next to the post office on Capital Hill, call 322-9982 or 83, or email moteisou@gmail.com or darrellm_21@hotmail.com.

Judiciary to hold seminar for freshman legislators

Tomorrow, Jan. 10, 2013, the Commonwealth Judiciary will conduct the fifth *Law and the Freshman Legislator* seminar, a biennial seminar designed for incoming legislators. The half-day program includes a condensed course on the Covenant and Constitution, an overview of the judiciary process, and an opportunity for interactive dialogue between first-time representatives and members of the Judiciary.

All nine newly elected legislators have been invited to this year's event. They are representatives-elect Antonio R. Agulto, Anthony T. Benavente, Roman C. Benavente, Lorenzo I. Deleon

Guerrero, Christopher D. Leon Guerrero, John Paul P. Sablan, Richard B. Seman, Mariano Taitano, and Ralph N. Yumul. Forty-three legislators have participated in the program since its inception in 2004 and all have highly recommended that the program continue. Former participants point to its constructive, informative, and highly beneficial nature.

The seminar agenda consists of four sessions covering: (1) the Covenant, the U.S. Constitution, and the NMI Constitution; (2) the role of the courts; (3) statutory interpretation; and (4) the basics of legal research. Presenting will be Chief Justice

Alexandro C. Castro, Associate Justice John A. Manglona, Associate Judge David A. Wiseman, Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI Ramona V. Manglona, and executive director of the Commonwealth Law Revision Commission Heather L. Kennedy.

A roundtable discussion and luncheon held after the presentations, sponsored by the Northern Mariana Islands Historic Society, will provide legislators with the opportunity to interact in a question-and-answer dialogue with the justices and judges. (*NMI Judiciary*)

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SAES teachers, principal flip burgers for school cause



MCDONALD'S SAIPAN

Wearing a McDonald's apron and cap, San Antonio Elementary School principal James Sablan smiles for a photo with other crewmembers of the fastfood chain during the school's first day in the McTeacher's Night program.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Teachers at San Antonio Elementary School were working hard Monday night, not to make lesson plans but to flip burgers, cook fries, and take orders at McDonald's Saipan's Chalan Laulau outlet as part of the McTeacher's Night program.

School principal James Sablan, teachers Catherine Cabrera, Beverly Surla, Annabel Tudela, Fatima Manaloto, and Jing Indalecio wore McDonald's aprons and caps as they

operated the counters and served food to customers from 5pm to 8pm.

"McDonald's has always been supportive of all the schools here in the CNMI, both private and public. This time, they're doing the McTeacher's Night and after researching it, I noticed that it's been going on in the states for quite some time," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The Home of the Octopus is the second public school in the CNMI to take part in the fundraising activity set up by the world's largest hamburger chain.

Launched in the Northern Marianas in December 2012, McTeacher's Night is a program that helps raise funds for participating public schools by giving them a percentage of store sales in the three hours they work as McDonald's crew once or twice a week throughout the month.

Total generated sales of \$1,999 or less entitles the school to a 10-percent share, \$2,000 to \$2,999 equates to 15 percent, while \$3,000 and above is equivalent to 20 percent.

Sablan said they were invited by McDonald's Saipan to join

the program last November and they immediately signed up as it's a great incentive for schools to raise funds for their needs.

Sablan, who has previous experience working in a restaurant, said yesterday that Monday's event was fun, with former San Antonio Elementary School students, parents, other supporters, and even his associates seeing him and the other educators in action.

He said their schedule is from 5pm to 8pm every Monday and Tuesday in January. All 14 teachers will alternate and give

up a day or two throughout the month to help out.

"I want to say a huge thank you to McDonald's for always keeping in mind the difficulties of schools that need funds nowadays," said Sablan.

Last year, McDonald's Saipan also teamed up with the CNMI Public School System, launching the fundraising coupon topped by San Vicente Elementary School which received \$8,000. San Antonio Elementary School came in third place with \$1,000.

Sablan noted that they have yet to earmark the funds to be raised by their school through McTeacher's Night. "We'll see first how much funds we'll collect then we'll decide from there."

McDonald's Saipan's Ana Olaes said that Monday's McTeacher's Night was a success

because of the support of family members and friends of San Antonio Elementary School students and staff.

"They really did well, considering that it was their first day at McDonald's and it was also the first day of school after the holidays," she said.

Olaes said the list of public schools that want to participate in the program is growing, and their schedule will be finalized and announced soon.

Sablan encouraged all San Antonio Elementary School stakeholders to stop by the fast-food chain and show their support for their educators.

"Please come down and get something—anything—from McDonald's to help our school. Your purchase goes back to the school," he said.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT for IMMEDIATE HIRING

Zoning Enforcement Officer

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Enforcement Officer. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Duties and Responsibilities: Conduct and supervise field surveys to inspect for, and verify compliance with, the Zoning Law and to collect land use information as instructed by the Zoning Administrator; Supervise and prepare notices of violation and other compliance documents for approval by the Zoning Administrator; Coordinate the field enforcement activities of the Zoning Officers, including serving violation notices, setting schedules, designing and implementation of information gathering procedures, and writing follow-up notices; Manage all aspects of issuing, tracking, and processing zoning violation notices, including conducting pre- and post-notice consultations, reviewing for compliance, tracking timelines and public notice requirements, coordinating interagency consultations, and preparing written recommendations and reports; Maintain and publish zoning violation fine guidelines and schedules as approved by the Zoning Administrator; Coordinate enforcement notice procedures, fine imposition, and abatement actions and provide weekly written status reports to the Zoning Administrator; Gather, research and coordinate property leasing and ownership information with government agencies; Perform other related duties as assigned.

Minimum Requirements: an Associate of Arts degree either in engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, geography, economics, political science, natural science, business administration, or related field, plus a minimum of 2 years of progressive experience in any combination of land use planning, zoning, construction management, business administration, public health and safety, environmental management, public policy, natural resource management, land management, regulatory and permitting enforcement or related field.

The salary is \$32,000, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Application submittals should be addressed to Therese T. Ogumoro, Zoning Administrator. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, a CNMI Application For Employment, and a resume. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Send submittals to: E-mail: Therese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp. FAX: 670-234-9666. US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

The deadline for application submittals is **January 23rd, 2013 at 4:30pm.**



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Spring 2013 Semester Dates

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January 14 to 18, 2013

New and Returning Student Orientation
January 9, 2013
4pm - 7pm Room D-1

January 10, 2013
4pm - 7pm Room S-1

Late Registration
January 22-25, 2013

First Day for Spring 2013 Classes
January 22, 2013

English and Math Placement Test
January 7-11, 2013
9am - 4pm
(Appointments recommended, call Dan Kintol at 234-5498 ext.1350)

For more information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu or contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 ext. 1528. For the latest news and announcements, follow NMC on Facebook: www.facebook.com/NMC.Proa

Social Security launches new online services

Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, said yesterday that the agency is expanding the services available with a *my Social Security* account, a personalized online account that people can use beginning in their working years and continuing throughout the time they receive Social Security benefits.

More than 60 million Social Security beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income recipients can now access their benefit verification letter, payment history, and earnings record instantly using their online account. Social Security beneficiaries also can change their address and start or change direct deposit information online.

"We are making it even easier for people to do their business with us from the comfort of their home, office, or library," Astrue

said. "I encourage people of all ages to take advantage of our award-winning online services and check out the new features available through an online *my Social Security* account."

Social Security beneficiaries and SSI recipients with a *my Social Security* account can go online and get an official benefit verification letter instantly. The benefit verification letter serves as proof of income to secure loans, mortgages and other housing, and state or local benefits. Additionally, people use the letter to prove current Medicare health insurance coverage, retirement or disability status, and age. People can print or save a customized letter.

Social Security processed nearly nine million requests for benefit verification letters in the past year. This new online service allows people to conduct

business with Social Security without having to visit an office or make a phone call, and very often wait for a letter to arrive in the mail. It also will reduce the time spent by employees completing these requests and free them to focus on other workloads.

People age 18 and older can sign up for an account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. Once there, they must be able to provide information about themselves and answers to questions that only they are likely to know. After completing the secure verification process, people can create a *my Social Security* account with a unique user name and password to access their information.

People age 18 and older who are not receiving benefits can sign up for a *my Social Security* account to get a personalized

online Social Security *Statement*. The online *Statement* provides eligible workers with secure and convenient access to their Social Security earnings and benefit information, and estimates of future benefits they can use to plan for their retirement. In addition, the portal also includes links to information about other online services, such as applications for retirement, disability and Medicare.

"Given our significantly reduced funding, we have to find innovative ways to continue to meet the needs of the American people without compromising service," said Astrue. "These new enhancements will allow us to provide faster service to more people in more places."

For more information, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. (*Social Security*)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 9, 2001

CDA loan delinquency rate in all-time high

Slowdown in business activities during the past three years had taken its toll on the loan portfolio of the Commonwealth Development Authority which reported on Monday that delinquency rate has gone up to record-high. Although she did not disclose the specific percentage for delinquent loans, executive director Marylou S. Ada said the number of remiss borrowers in the last calendar year has surpassed the 20-percent mark. "It is very high. Delinquency rate was a big problem and we recognized even before that it's going to be a problem because a lot of businesses have closed down and there's too little money circulating around," Ms. Ada told reporters in an interview.

Creation of tobacco settlement trust account pushed

The House of Representatives is expected to vote by this week on the measure establishing a special account to keep money received by the CNMI under the multi-billion dollar tobacco settlement agreement. Health and Welfare Committee chair Rep. Malua T. Peter, author of HB 12-290, said the government needs the legislation to set aside the payments remitted to the islands every year for future appropriation. Peter, along with Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Antonio M. Camacho, met last week with Finance Sec. Lucy DLG Nielsen to inquire what happened to the more than \$800,000 already given to the CNMI since 1999.

Jan. 9, 2002

Adriano: Lift hiring ban but raise minimum wage

Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano says he will support the lifting of the moratorium on the hiring of nonresident workers, provided that certain conditions are met. Adriano, who will be the Senate Floor Leader in the 13th Legislature, said the ban on the hiring of new nonresident workers-Public Law 11-6-may be lifted on the condition that the CNMI minimum wage is raised to US mainland standards. "The minimum wage should be raised to somewhere around \$4.10 to \$4.25 per hour. In that way, we can attract our own people to go and work in the private sector," he said. Currently, the CNMI's minimum wage is pegged at \$3.05.

Inauguration fever hits Capital Hill

Six days before the inauguration day and preparations are in now full swing, with ground zero—the executive and legislative buildings—being decked out in their Sunday's best. The smell of fresh paint and Pine-Sol hangs in the air as workers go over the insides and outsides of both buildings with new coats of paint. Windows that have accumulated grime are being washed clean and restored to their original sparkling selves. Both upper and lower chambers are a mass of jumbled chairs and tables and cables, with the installation of new light brown carpets and gallery seats.

Jan. 9, 2003

NMIRF halts new investments

The NMI Retirement Fund has already stopped infusing new money into its international investments pool, forced as it is to take this action as the government's debt to the Fund nears the \$100-million mark. With no new money being injected into investments, this could seriously jeopardize the Fund's capacity to be in the black by 2020—the deadline set by its charter to achieve self-sufficiency. Fund administrator Karl T. Reyes disclosed these concerns, saying all the money that the Fund currently derives from premium payments and other sources of revenue all go out to pay off pension checks and other obligations to vendors.

Female-headed families low in NMI

The number of female-headed families in the Northern Marianas remains relatively low compared to the national level, according to a recent report based on Census 2000 data. The report-Children of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: Results of the 2000 Census-disclosed that about 17 percent of families with children in the CNMI were headed by female householders in 2000, lower than the national level of 22 percent. However, the total number actually increased in 2000 compared to the 1990 tally, which translates to about 1,106 female-headed families throughout the Commonwealth in 2000 from only 465, or 12 percent, in 1990. Population experts said that the structure of family has important implications for children.



UNITY LIONS CLUB DONATION

The Saipan Unity Lions Club recently sent a \$500 donation to LCI District 204 account in Guam to be forwarded to Lions Clubs International Foundation in Illinois. LCIF will endorse the donation to the respective Lions Club in Northern Mindanao, Philippines for the benefit of the Typhoon Pablo victims, particularly in the Compostela Valley. These funds came from the proceeds of SULC's 20th anniversary gala night fundraising last Aug. 5, 2012, and from the proceeds of its 2012 Christmas caroling activity. The club's president, Lion Noemi Catigan, thanks all donors, contributors, volunteers, and others who made the club's projects and fundraising activities a success.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vacancy Announcement

Board of Directors
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Board of Directors for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) wishes to announce an impending vacancy on its board of directors for a member representing the Island of Rota.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. To be considered, candidates must also be full-time residents of Rota. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs and recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **David J. Attao, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950** or delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan. All letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, **January 18, 2013**. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Procurement And Supply CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP13-DEQ-059
Submission: February 05, 2013 Time: 2:00 p.m.

"Development of a Training Program on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Construction General Permit, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan for the Division Of Environmental Quality"

The scope of work for this project will be available on or after **January 02, 2013** at the DEQ front desk or can be received electronically by e-mail request to davidrosario@deq.gov.mp

A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for **January 22, 2013 at 10:30 a.m., local time**, in the 2nd Floor DEQ Conference Room. Questions regarding this project may be faxed to Mr. David B. Rosario at (670) 664-8540 or by e-mail at davidrosario@deq.gov.mp no later than the close of business, **January 25, 2013**.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference **is not available**, because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the commonwealth.

/s/ Frank M. Rabauliman
Director, DEQ

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP13-DEQ-061
Submission: January 31, 2013 Time: 2:00 p.m.

"Procurement Of Vessel For Marine Monitoring (Boston Whaler 17") For The Division Of Environmental Quality"

The scope of work for this project will be available on after **January 02, 2013** at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive, during regular working hours.

All inquires should be directed to **Mr. Frank M. Rabauliman**, Director, Division of Environmental Quality at telephone number (670) 664-8500 no later than the close of business, **January 22, 2013**.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference **is not available**, because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the commonwealth.

/s/ Frank M. Rabauliman
Director, DEQ

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

NMC spring 2013 registration to begin on Jan. 14

The Northern Marianas College has announced that registration for the Spring 2013 semester will begin on Monday, Jan. 14, and run through Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013. Students can register on the day designated for their PowerCampus ID number during this week. Late registration is on Friday, Jan. 18, 2013.

New and re-admitted students are required to attend the spring 2013 student orientation scheduled prior to registration. New or returning students who do not attend a student orientation will not be allowed to register for courses. To register to attend a student orientation or for additional information, contact Queanna Sablan, Student Activities manager, at 234-5498 Ext. 1251 or 1253 or email queannas@nmcnet.edu.

Those who wish to take courses at NMC must take the placement tests. There is a \$25 fee for each placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4pm). Students will not be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee or the NMC application fee) and must also bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee. Students who have a fee waiver must ob-

SPRING 2013 IMPORTANT DATES

Jan. 9: New & Returning Student Orientation, 4pm to 7pm, Building D, Room 1

Jan. 10: Student Orientation for International Students, 9:30 am to 12:30pm, Building I, International Student Services Office

Jan. 10: New & Returning Student Orientation, 4pm to 7pm, Building S, Room 1

Jan. 11: Early registration for graduation candidates and SOE

Jan. 14: Regular registration, 9am to 6pm, PowerCampus # 00000100-000012580

Jan. 15: Regular registration, 9am to 6pm, PowerCampus # 000012581-000016030

Jan. 16: Regular registra-

tion, 9am to 6pm, PowerCampus # 000016031-000018010

Jan. 17: Regular/late registration, 9am to 6pm, PowerCampus # 000018011 and higher

Jan. 18: Late registration, 9am to 6pm, for all other NEW, ONGOING, and RE-ADMITTED students

Jan. 21: Holiday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan. 22: First day of spring classes

English & Math Placement Test Schedule

Jan. 10-11: Computer Lab, Building W, 9am to 4pm

tain a placement test slip from the Office of Admissions and Records prior to taking the test.

After taking the placement tests, students can meet with their academic advisers, who will assist students complete registration forms and create class schedules. Students may register between 9am and 6pm Monday through Friday during registration week.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human

services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For additional information about the placement tests and registration for the spring 2013 semester, visit the Office of Admissions and Records or call 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1540, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (**NMC**)

tion, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email ccamarianas@gmail.com. (**PR**)

Friends of the Arts sets auditions today

The Friends of the Arts will be presenting Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Feb. 14, 15, and 16, 2013.

Interested performers and would be performers are invited to try out. Auditions will be held at the Dolphin Theater in Marianas High School, today, Jan. 9, 2013 from 3pm to 6pm. (**FOA**)



Invites qualified US workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) SUPERVISOR, SALES ASSOCIATE (CHINA MARKET)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years progressive experience at supervisory level and is exceptionally self-motivated. Must be able to supervise sales efforts to achieve and exceed assigned sales goals. Must be skilled at interpreting and communicating company objectives in order to maximize team sales revenue. Must be able to read, write and speak English and Mandarin Chinese. Able to work a varied schedule including weekends and holidays.

(1) SALES ASSOCIATE (CHINA MARKET)

Qualifications: High School graduate or equivalent. Must have at least 2 years previous work experience in retail sales. Must be able to provide exemplary customer service, have a team player mindset and an exceptional cash handling accuracy. Effective communication skills, high energy level, patience, stress tolerance and persuasiveness are essential competencies. Must be able to read and write in English and Mandarin Chinese. Must be able to work a varied schedule including weekends and late night shifts.

(3) MESSAGE THERAPIST

Qualifications: Must have gone through training in a vocational school or acquired at least 2 years of related on-the-job experience (Shiatsu, Oil and Foot Massage) in a spa environment. Ability to speak Mandarin Chinese is an advantage. Must be able to adapt to changes in work assignments and willing to work on evenings, weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr_frs@fiestasaipan.com. Application Forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the South Wing. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than January 31, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.



DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

P.O. Box 501000 C.K.
Saipan, MP 96950



Opening Date: January 9, 2013

Closing Date: January 23, 2013

Department of Community & Cultural Affairs FY 2013 COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Department of Community & Cultural Affairs (DCCA) is soliciting request for proposals for FY 2013 Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds as defined in section 676A of the CSBG Act under Title XX of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. A total of \$90,000 is made available to be divided and sub-granted to 3 non-government agencies/non-profit community organizations in the CNMI upon meeting the specific qualifications/provisions of the said funding through the CSBG State Plan.

The purpose of the CSBG funding is to make grants to States and Territories for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low-income communities and the empowerment of low-income families to become fully self-sufficient. The special intent of this funding will be to fund projects that will provide services to the community who are considered economically disadvantaged addressed through the CSBG Six (6) National Performance Indicators.

A copy of the grant general requirements/conditions, subgrantee responsibilities and other scope relating to the funding can be obtained at the DYS main office, House #1324 in Capital Hill. For additional questions or inquiries, please contact Vivian T. Sablan, CSBG Program Coordinator, at 664-2559 or Ms. Resel Billy-Magofna at 664-2568.

/s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
DCCA Secretary

This ad has been paid for by the Community Services Block Grant under
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CCA sets general membership meeting

All friends, volunteers, partners, and clients of the Commonwealth Cancer Association and all members of the community are invited to the general membership meeting on Thursday, Jan. 24, 2013, at 5:30pm at CCA's Conference Room in Guarlo Rai.

The agenda will include the 2012 annual report of the president and treasurer, election of four CCA board members, and an opportunity for public comments. Nominations for board members will be accepted on the floor. For more informa-

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

UNION BANK, Plaintiff,]	CIVIL ACTION NO. 94-1046
-v-]	FOURTEENTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
JUAN L. EVANGELISTA, Defendant.]	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Second Amended Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 2, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Tract 22845-19 (part of original Tract 22845-REM, A.H. 31), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2083/84, the original of which was recorded August 2, 1984, as document No. 84-1398 at the office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 25, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of December, 2012:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

ACCOUNTANT

Candidates are to have the following minimum qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Finance/Accounting; CPA preferred
- Three years of progressive accounting experience preferably in cost accounting
- Experience with payroll processing and accounts payable, including enforcement of company policies and adherence to company procedures
- Thorough knowledge of GAAP and GAAS Finance/Accounting practices
- Possess strong analytical ability
- Effective oral and written communications skills
- Technical knowledge of Quickbooks Accounting software
- Intricate working knowledge of ABRA Suite Payroll system
- Understand banking operations and knowledge of ACH network for direct deposit payroll processing and FICA transmittals
- Knowledge of CNMI, and US Federal taxes including compliance and form preparation of, but not limited to, Form 500, Quarterly withholding taxes, payroll taxes, etc.
- Working experience with Microsoft Excel/Pivot Table, Microsoft Outlook and Microsoft Word

Candidates must be able to demonstrate successful accomplishments in the following areas:

- Responsible for the accuracy of accounting transactions relating to payroll, accounts payable, capital acquisitions, and inventory
- Review of related activity and ability to resolve discrepancies
- Analyze and process activity pertaining to IT&E Corporate transactions in compliance with established corporate guidelines, Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and Regulatory body requirements
- Coordinate accounting staff to provide accurate and timely analysis of accounting activity
- Provide management with reports relating to company's efficiency in areas of labor, materials and services.

IT&E offers an attractive and competitive compensation package. Applications must be received by IT&E Human Resources at the IT&E Susupe Headquarters Building on Tekken Street, next to the fire station, on or before January 11, 2013.



Life in Motion

An EEO Employer

Opinion

State of the Commonwealth Address

By **BENIGNO R. FITIAL**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Benigno R. Fitia is the governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of the State of the Commonwealth address that Gov. Benigno R. Fitia gave on Jan. 8, 2013, at the Legislature on Capital Hill. It is being published in two parts due to its length.

First of a two-part series

[Acknowledgment of dignitaries], officers of the government, and citizens of our Commonwealth, I come before you to report on where we have been over the past year and where I see us going over the course of the next year.

But before I do that, I want to speak to you directly about what I know is troubling many of you. You are disappointed in your Governor, and you think I should have done better. I too am disappointed. I have made mistakes. I acknowledge that.

I did not see soon enough how devastating the economic forces blowing down on us would be. I was too optimistic that we would get enough help from the federal government to dig out of this economic black hole we are in.

I made errors of judgment and made decisions that turned out poorly because they were not based on enough reliable information. I trusted people who could not perform what they promised. I also have, at times, blamed people for things they could not have avoided.

I want you to know that I have thought deeply and carefully about my own mistakes, and I am determined that I will not repeat them. Very bad economic times cause heavy pressures. But there are no easy ways out. We have to fall back on our strength as a people and gradually, steadily work toward better times.

Tourism

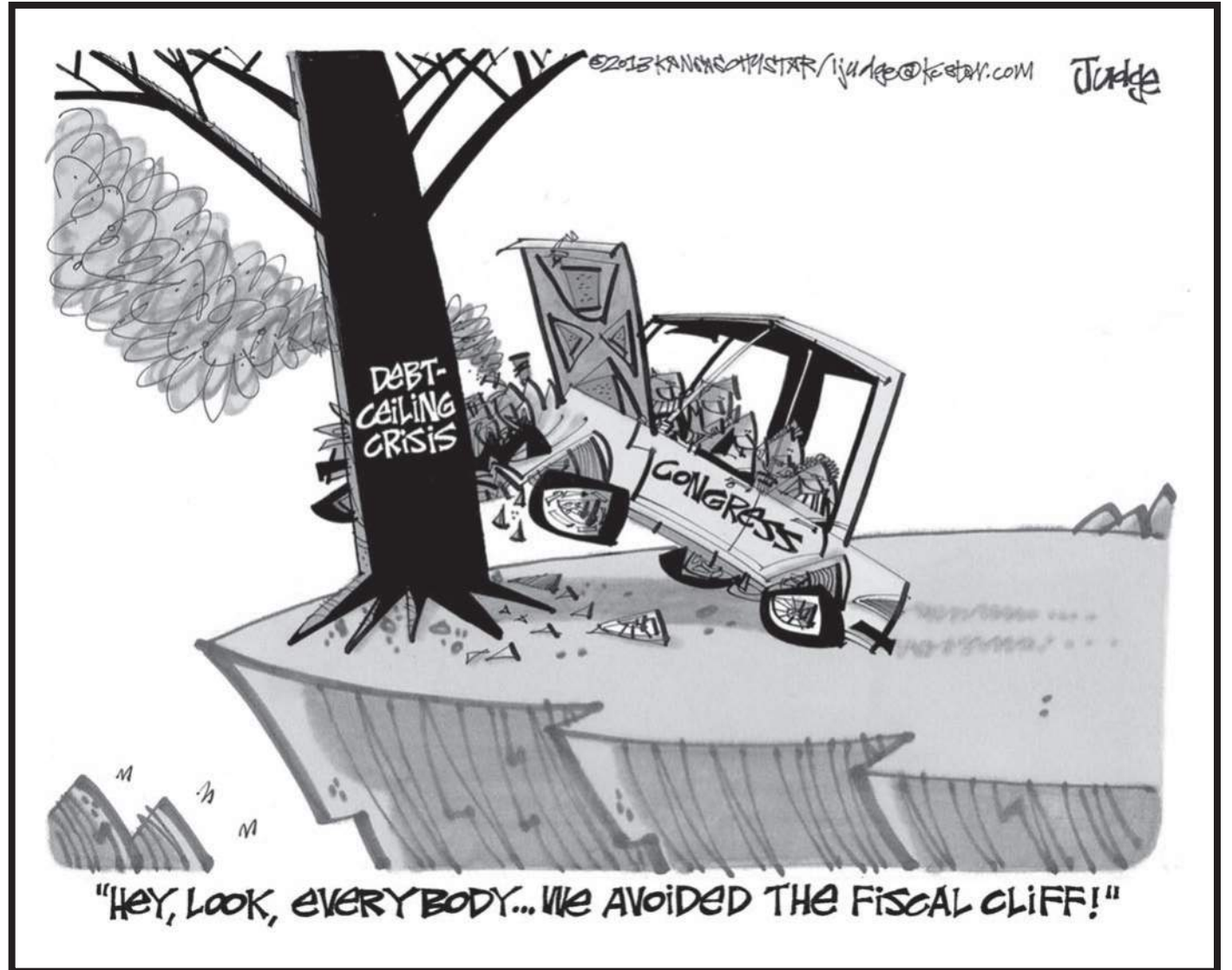
I want to share with you a few promising signs of the beginning of economic recovery.

Just last month, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported a hotel occupancy rate of 74.53 percent; a 9 percent increase over the previous year.

The E-Land Group has presented a development plan to revitalize the Coral Ocean Point Hotel and the Palms Hotel in 2013. The plan by E-Land is to focus on high value tourists, and they plan to upgrade the facilities at both locations to target this sector of the tourist market. This renovation will add significant construction jobs in 2013 and increase the number of high quality accommodations. Because of our economic situation, developers proceed slowly and cautiously. We have other developers who are considering similar activities in 2013 which would further increase the available construction jobs and tourist facilities. It takes a great deal of time and effort to arrive at development plans that are realistic and that we can support. I think we will see some progress on this front this year.

Our very important tourism market in Japan is still burdened by the after-effects of the tsunami and the long-lasting economic slowdown. I do not expect recovery in this market next year. But we have long-standing friendships in Japan, and there are reliable indications we will see a very modest improvement in the number of Japanese tourists in 2013 and better numbers a few years out.

However, we have reaped economic benefits from our Korean



"HEY, LOOK, EVERYBODY... WE AVOIDED THE FISCAL CLIFF!"

tourists. I am truly grateful to the Kumho Asiana Group for making major investments in our islands since acquiring the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort in 2007, investing more than \$50 Million and adding much appreciated passenger air service flights to the CNMI. They expect to fly to the CNMI with 18 flights during the summer of 2013 and 18 flights during the winter season.

When I saw a promising future for our tourism industry to expand in the Korean market, I made several trips to Korea to work closely with Kumho and other Korean executives to strongly encourage them to take the chance of investing in the CNMI. Surely enough, Kumho Asiana saw opportunity where other airline carrier saw crisis, and they strategically invested when the market was down, in anticipation of the eventual turnaround that we expected to realize, in due course, by staying the course. Our annual Korean arrivals have even surpassed those of Guam and this has brought more Korean hotel investment when we needed it most.

The Marianas Visitors Authority has worked hard to gain a steady growth in Chinese tourists in the past year. The projected long-term growth of the Chinese economy bodes well for the Commonwealth. China now has the largest outbound market in the world. It is said that the Chinese economy will surpass that of the U.S. in the next decade or two and as the benefits of this economy filters into the population; we expect tourism to continue growing significantly. Our ability to offer the visa waiver program places us in a very advantageous position.

From the beginning, I saw that the Chinese tourism market was emerging exponentially. That is why I exerted all efforts to travel to key cities in China and to work closely with the owners of the Tinian Dynasty, Century Tours and Tan Holdings to make a strong push to steer Chinese tourists to the Northern Marianas.

Saipan is now second only to Australia and Phuket, Thailand in terms of popularity and increased visitor rates for Chinese travelers. Bali and the Maldives trail behind Saipan.

Today, as a result of these efforts, we have just added three wide body charter flights, with a maximum of 300 pax per flight, for our Chinese tourism market. And as result of this anticipated growth from the China market, DFS Saipan is poised to undertake renovations at the main Galleria shopping center.

For that reason, the role of independent carriers and charters is crucial in the development of new markets. Establishment of new air services is expensive and entails significant risks so investors proceed cautiously. We will not experience growth in tourism unless we have available flights and seats at competitive prices. This will serve as our engine for growth and development of the Chinese markets. Our goal for 2013 is to establish two new daily flights to China that would provide us with the opportunity of a quarter of a million new tourists per year in coming years. Chinese tour-

ists have the ability to travel anywhere in the world. The fact that CNMI ranks high on their list of preferred destination is certainly welcomed news and we must not lose sight of this opportunity for economic growth.

The Russian market remains small for us, and it is relatively expensive to develop. However, we have continued to make prudent investments in expanding our presence there. We had a small increase in Russian tourists this past year, and we expect this increase to be matched in the coming year.

Although I am very pleased about the growth in the number of tourists, I am reminded that we need to do more at home to clean our house and improve our tourism product. Last year, the Marianas Visitors Authority, with support from the Office of Insular Affairs took on a major survey of more than 2,300 tourists. The feedback from tourists of more than five nationalities told us that we need to find ways to ensure visitor safety, care for our environment and care for our existing tourist sites. They also told us that they want to see our destination refreshed from time to time and for this, we need to re-invest in new ways to share our ecotourism sites and our cultural heritage sites, such as our beloved, but under-interpreted latte stones. Yes, I want to do more to meet the expectations of our visitors and this is something we must partner in with the private sector. We cannot simply wait for tourists to arrive and not make continued efforts to improve what we share with them.

At the forefront, I will work closely with hotel owners to address the need of upgrading and renovating the hotels. This needs to be done in order for us to increase the quality and rates of rooms so that in turn, we can realize increased revenues.

I am delighted to report that just this holiday season, we experienced a major lack of hotel rooms for our tourists. At the peak of the season, our major hotels reported a shortage of more than 100 hotel rooms. To address this problem, we will work with interested investors to revive defunct hotels like Plumeria Resort and Riviera Resort to add more rooms to our inventory. If we can achieve these efforts, I believe we can return to the level of 650,000 visitor arrivals between 2014 and 2015.

Priorities for 2013

Now let me turn to what I would like to do in 2013 in other areas. One of the mistakes I have made in the past was not to pay enough attention to transparency in government. I tried to consult widely, but sometimes I thought I had to act quickly in order to secure a benefit for the Commonwealth. Acting without transparency decreases confidence in the government. I want you to know what I am planning, and I invite input from any and all of our citizens.

See STATE on Next Page

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Reviewing NMI self-government

Thirty-four years ago we became a “permanent” part of the United States, the relationship outlined under what’s known as the Covenant Agreement. It included our becoming U.S. citizens in 1986, the establishment of local self-government, and the supremacy of laws—U.S. constitutional and federal laws—over local laws. Where there’s a conflict, the former prevails, among others.

Retrospectively, there seems to be some disconnection in what the agreement says versus our mindset on the 30-plus-year reality that we seem to have ignored, as though the CNMI is a sovereign entity. We’ve opted to ignore the permanency of the agreement. This attitude raises a lot of queries that only we can answer behind the mist of lofty superficial platitudes.

But didn’t we approve the agreement by over 78 percent? What seems to be our disenchantment or apparent hostility that has sank deeper into the prevailing disconnection? Are these concerns legitimate? Were they conveyed to our non-voting delegate in Washington? If so, what were those issues? What was his response? Or did we simply dispose of it with the usual island aspersions, i.e., an *argumentum ad hominem*?

As a continuing student of government, the obvious disconnect merits probing the basis of the prevailing mindset. Central query is whether it is useful in moving toward the strengthening of our democratic institutions? Have we superficially created a wall of “us” against “them?” In doing so, what’s our basis or foundation?

Indeed, I’ve also used U.S. commitment to remind the feds of its obligation “...to provide for a progressively higher standard of living” for the CNMI. Is our expectation of the elusive American dream one of cradle to grave? Is it realistic to expect this? Is it not true that the agreement provided for a seven-year guaranteed funding so we fix and build infrastructure to lure economic growth? Did we partake in meeting our share of responsibility “to provide for a progressively higher standard of living?” Or did we go to a corner and point fingers at everybody else except ourselves? When do we own up responsibly to our duties as citizens? Didn’t the CNMI attain economic euphoria in the ’80s that slowly fizzled into pessimism or dystopia? Did we burn the midnight oil to ensure that investments are positively supported and strengthened so they don’t come off the base? Didn’t investment take an exodus in recent past? Why did this happen and did we lift a finger to close the floodgates? Isn’t the freedom that we have the perfect tool to remap investments? Were we ready for the “unthinkable” given that change of sort would hit as “inevitable”?

The more I probe our relationship, the more it becomes obvious that both sides were negligent and there’s an obvious need to change the conversation. Such conversation begins by our accept-

ing the permanency of the agreement and a desire to understand it in terms of what it says, not what we think it says. Let’s begin by understanding the responsibilities of U.S. citizenship.

Investment exodus in Calif.

“A vote last month that makes Californians among the highest-taxed residents in the country is sparking debate about whether the Democrat-backed initiative will backfire, by forcing high-earners to join a long exodus from the cash-strapped state,” according to Fox News.

“Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown successfully pushed the tax increase by suggesting that high-earners must shoulder the largest burden in bailing out the state, particularly its debt-ridden public school system.

“However, high unemployment and government debt have already sent residents fleeing in large numbers—an estimated 225,000 annually for the past 10 years.

“And the recently passed tax increase for families making more than \$250,000 each year could further shrink the tax base for California, whose 2012 budget deficit is projected to hit \$28 billion.

“Much of the debate has raged among California advocacy groups and in the editorial pages of the state’s biggest and most influential newspapers.”

“More is never enough for these people,” Kris Vosburgh, executive director of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, said about the Democrat-backed increase. “It’s hard to believe people will not leave.” Vosburgh said his group is not an advocate for the wealthy and argued the tax increase atop other bad economic factors—including high gas and sales taxes—also have sent small and large businesses packing.

“With high taxes and heavy regulations, it’s just difficult to produce those widgets at a lower price than somebody in, say, Texas,” he told FoxNews.com on Tuesday.

Syndicated columnist Walter E. Williams wrote in *The Orange County Register*: “California politicians can fleece people in 2012, but there’s no guarantee they can do the same in 2013 and later years. People can leave.”

“Ex-Californians over the past decade have already put roughly \$5.67 billion into Nevada’s economy as well as \$4.96 billion into Arizona and \$4.07 billion in Texas, according to Manhattan Institute study titled “The Great California Exodus: A Closer Look.”

“The September 2012 study—based on data from the state and such federal agencies as the Internal Revenue Service—also argues that ‘chronic economic adversity,’ including powerful unions, has driven away businesses.”

Can we build prosperity with more taxes? Or would it exact the complete opposite? These are relevant questions of finance

duction in hours or layoffs in 2013.

Local transportation

Next I want to report on two transportation projects we have identified for 2013. Our objective is to expand the transportation connections within our economy and to expand the transportation connections between the economies of the Commonwealth and Guam. Economic analysis indicates that we can achieve additional economic activity this way.

There is significant federal support available for efficient local public transportation, and many states in the U.S. have capitalized on this to improve their economies. During 2013 we will do an initial feasibility analysis for the establishment of a government-sponsored local bus system. The establishment of a regularly scheduled bus system would provide an inexpensive transportation system that would provide regular transportation to meet everyday needs of going to work, school, shopping, and tourism. The development of a simple cost-effective government bus system would supplement car ownership and provide an alternative for those who do not own their own vehicle. It could be easily implemented on the island of Saipan where most areas can be served by a simple routing system.

We have also identified an inter-island ferry service with Guam as a way to lower the costs of goods and expand secondary tourism from Guam. We are exploring a viable ferry system that can provide a low-cost sustainable passenger and cargo system. If we could expand the transportation system connecting these two economies, we would provide a significant economic stimulus. This is a complex undertaking which must be planned carefully, but federal funds are available that could subsidize this operation. In 2013, we are taking

By **JOHN DELROSARIO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



and economics elected officials must think through before the next fees, taxes, and punitive policies are embraced in perpetuity to our detriment. What a perfect recipe to encourage contractionary rather than expansionary business decisions. Private industries have more than their share of the wrestling match, dealing with the world’s highest cost of utilities ready to leap off the investment cliff as they think seriously with their feet. And many have done just this in recent past.

A cruise along main road shows a lot of empty buildings depicting how many more have simply shut down business operations and moved elsewhere. Yes, it is the sign of the economic contraction at home, but a very bad sign too. Any plans to grow the economy beyond “do-nothing?”

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Proper nomenclature

The reference “upper house” referring to the Senate of the Legislature is neither correct nor written as such into the CNMI’s Constitution. This also applies to “lower house,” referring to the House of Representatives. When referring to the Senate or the House of Representatives in a bicameral legislature, it is only that, no other alias is acceptable or makes sense. The last time this matter was debated according to U.S. history was during the early part of the first U.S. Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. And, it was final. I am not too sure why in the CNMI we keep referring to each distinct chamber, with its separate constitutional authority and responsibility, as “upper house” or “lower house” of the CNMI Legislature. I think this is a straightforward lesson in civic and legislative history here and of the U.S., and if it is not part of our Constitution, then it should not be part of our common lingo.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

the first step in this endeavor by carefully identifying costs, revenues and available federal resources that form the economic foundation of this system.

Health care

Now let me turn to the very important subject of our health care. The Commonwealth healthcare system will continue to face challenges in 2013, but I think we are headed in the right direction. The HealthTech study that was completed in 2012 identified important shortcomings in the current structure of our health care system. These inefficiencies have developed over a long period and have resulted in a system that is unaffordable and ineffective. Efforts are well under way for CHC to structure itself correctly to achieve maximum efficiency.

Our goal is to provide United States mainland quality care that fits within our budgetary limits, or as we refer to it – a “Long-term Sustainable Healthcare Model.” This will require us to consider carefully the services to be provided and then ensure that they are provided in the most cost-effective manner. This will not be an easy task as medical care is expensive and we have limitations on the amount of available revenue.

The current arrangement with the United States Department of Health and Human Services is providing short-term assistance and is sincerely appreciated. In 2013 we need to move quickly to develop our long-term model. It is our objective to work with federal government experts to develop this model and begin to implement it during 2013.

To be continued.

STATE

From Page 10

Government jobs

First, I want to report that we are not going to eliminate government jobs or require reductions in hours in 2013. I know that some of you view our government as too big and having unnecessary employees. I do not see it that way. We need to provide our citizens with the core government services, even in hard times, and we have made our operations much more efficient. That is not to say everything is perfect, but we have made steady progress.

I will also evaluate the members of my Cabinet in an effort to ensure that each department is adequately delivering quality services to the people. I believe that when the government is being run effectively and efficiently, this will be a key component in our efforts to turn our economy around.






Since I came to office in 2006, we have gone from an operational budget of \$213 million down to \$112 million today. We have cut where we had to, but in the past year, the central government has returned to a forty-hour work week. We exercised sound financial management to avoid implementing mass layoffs within our government workforce. Yes, we successfully achieved this in the face of \$100 million in reduced operational expenses. Certainly, that is a feat unprecedented elsewhere and within our government.

We expect that finances will continue to be restricted in 2013, so we must continue to be vigilant in our expenditures. However, at this point in time, we do not see a need for a re-

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

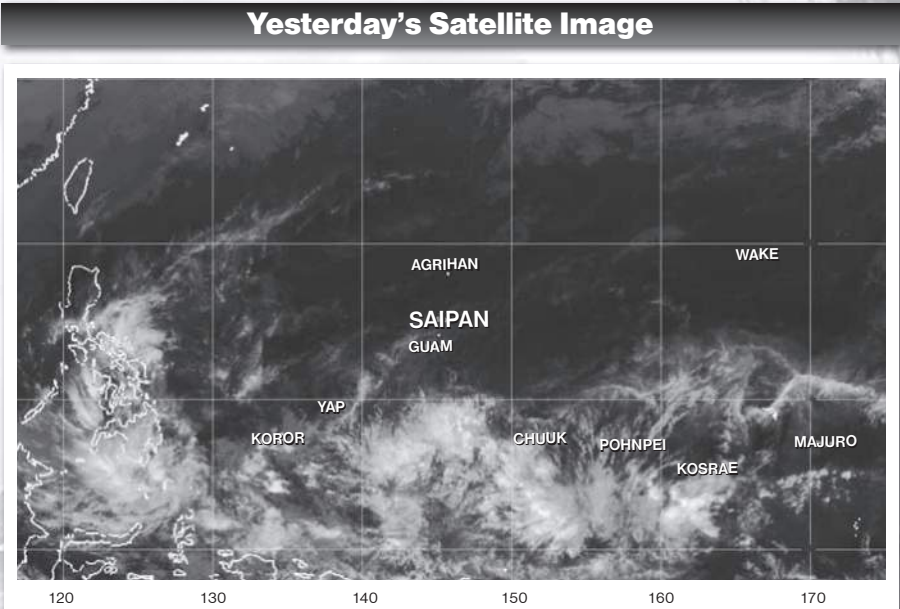
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly sunny and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Palau	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 81

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 67
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 31 ▼ 7
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 49
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 68
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 37
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 49
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 52
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 71
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 33
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 36
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 43
Pusan	Windy	▲ 38 ▼ 23
Rome	Showers	▲ 57 ▼ 45
Salem	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 45
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 49
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 21 ▼ 9
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 36
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 52 ▼ 37

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
6:19 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:13 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
4:34 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line west of Minami Tori Shima extends southwestward from 25N150E to 19N138E. Low clouds and light showers are found along and up to 100 miles northwest of this boundary. An old shear line runs southwestward from west of Wake Island at 20N162E past Guam to west of Yap at near 10N136E. Patchy clouds and light showers are seen along and up to 120 miles northwest of this feature including Guam and Rota. A weak monsoon trough extends eastward from west of 130E at 2N to 2N137E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring south of Koror south of a line from 4N130E to EQ141E. A broad weak circulation centered well southwest of Chuuk near 4N147E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west and southwest of Chuuk between the equator and 9N from 141E to 151E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae between 1N and 5N from 151E to 167E. Scattered showers are also occurring between 3N and 6N from 167E to 180 south of Majuro.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:46 AM	6:03 PM	Today	3:43 AM	3:23 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:03 PM	Thursday	4:46 AM	4:26 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM	Friday	5:47 AM	5:31 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM	Saturday	6:45 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM	Sunday	7:38 AM	7:35 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JAN. 7, 2013									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7		UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7	
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5		UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily	
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily		UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily		UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily	
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily		UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily	
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7		DL286	7:40pm	12:15am+1	2, 4, 6, 7	
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily		DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)					OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN				
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily		OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 6, 7		OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 5, 6	
OZ608	3:30am	6:40am	3		OZ607	9:35pm	2:25am+1	2	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1		OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX	
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX		OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7	
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily		OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU7108	3:50am	7:00am	1, 5		MU7107	7:40pm	2:55am+1	4, 7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)					VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN				
XF1734	6:30am	12:30pm	5		XF1733	8:00pm	12:05am+1	4	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1		OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		DL172/288	8:05am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT	
UA5070/191	4:35am	10:00am	6 via GUM		UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM	
UA5070/191	4:40am	10:00am	3		UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM	
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM		OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:55am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		UA184/5071	11:59pm	7:55am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/147	3:10pm	10:30pm	1, 5 via GUM		OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN		UA180/5071	11:25pm	10:40am+1	1 via GUM	
					UA180/5077	11:25pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.					ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)				

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE									
Airline		ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline		ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota					FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily	
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily		FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily	
Rota-Saipan					FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily	
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily		FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily	
Guam-Rota					FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily	
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily		FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily	
Rota-Saipan									
Saipan-Rota					Tinian-Saipan				
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily		FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily	
Rota-Guam					FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily	
Saipan-Rota					FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily	
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily		FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily	
Rota-Guam					FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily	
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily		FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily	
Saipan-Tinian					FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily	
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily		FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily	
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily		FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily	
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily		FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily	
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily		FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily	
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily		FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily	
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily		FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily	

Business

US banks try to clean up remaining mortgage mess

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. banks have taken another step to clear away the wreckage of the 2008 financial crisis by agreeing to pay \$8.5 billion to settle charges that they wrongfully foreclosed on millions of homeowners.

The deal announced Monday could compensate hundreds of thousands of Americans whose homes were seized because of abuses such as “robo-signing,” when banks automatically signed off on foreclosures without properly reviewing documents. The agreement will also help eliminate huge potential liabilities for the banks.

But consumer advocates complained that regulators settled for too low a price by letting banks avoid full responsibility for foreclosures that victimized families and fueled an exodus from neighborhoods across the country.

The settlement ends an independent review of loan files required under a 2011 action by regulators. Bruce Marks, CEO of the advocacy group Neighborhood Assistance Corp. of America, noted that ending the review will cut short investigations into the banks’ practices.

“The question of who’s to blame—the homeowners or the lenders—if you stop this investigation now, that will always

be an open-ended question,” Marks said. The banks, which include JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America and Wells Fargo, will pay about \$3.3 billion to homeowners to end the review of foreclosures.

The rest of the money—\$5.2 billion—will be used to reduce mortgage bills and forgive outstanding principal on home sales that generated less than borrowers owed on their mortgages.

A total of 3.8 million people are eligible for payments under the deal announced by the Office of Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Reserve. Those payments could range from a few hundred dollars to up to \$125,000.

Homeowners who were wrongly denied a loan modification will be entitled to relatively small payments. By contrast, people whose homes were unfairly seized and sold would be eligible for the biggest payments.

Banks and consumer advocates had complained that the loan-by-loan reviews required under the 2011 order were time-consuming and costly and didn’t reach many homeowners. Banks were paying large sums to consultants to review the files. Some questioned the independence of those consultants,

who often ruled against homeowners. The deal “represents a significant change in direction” that ensures “consumers are the ones who will benefit, and that they will benefit more quickly and in a more direct manner,” Thomas Curry, the comptroller of the currency,

said in a statement.

But Charles Wanless, a homeowner in the Florida Panhandle, is among those who question that promise. Wanless, who is fighting foreclosure proceedings with Bank of America, says he doubts the money will benefit many who

lost homes.

“Let’s say they already foreclosed on me and I lost my home,” said Wanless, who runs a pool cleaning business in Crestview, Fla. “What’s \$1,000 going to do to help me? If they took my house away wrongfully, is that going to get me my

house back? I might be able to find one if I’m one of the lucky ones who gets \$125,000.”

Diane Thompson, a lawyer with the National Consumer Law Center, complained that the deal won’t actually compensate homeowners for the actual harm they suffered.



In this Dec. 13, 2012 photo, a customer stops at a Bank of America ATM office in Boston. Bank of America Corp. says it will spend more than \$10 billion to settle mortgage claims resulting from the housing meltdown.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Google executive chairman arrives in North Korea

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—Google’s chairman wants a firsthand look at North Korea’s economy and social media landscape during his private visit Monday to the communist nation, his delegation said, despite misgivings in Washington over the timing of the trip. Eric Schmidt, executive chairman of one of the world’s biggest Internet companies, is the highest-profile U.S. executive to visit North Korea—a country with notoriously restrictive online policies—since young leader Kim Jong Un took power a year ago. His visit has drawn criticism from the U.S. State Department because it comes only weeks after a controversial North Korean rocket launch; it has also prompted speculation about what the businessman hopes to accom-

plish. Schmidt arrived on a commercial Air China flight with former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who has traveled more than a half-dozen times to North Korea over the past 20 years.

Sears Holdings announces CEO is stepping down

HOFFMAN ESTATES, Ill. (AP)—Sears Holdings Corp. announced late Monday that CEO Louis J. D’Ambrosio is stepping next month due to health issues involving his family. The company, which operates Sears and Kmart stores, said D’Ambrosio will be replaced by company chairman and its largest shareholder, Edward Lampert. D’Ambrosio will remain on the board until the company’s annual meeting in May. The nature of the health issues affecting D’Ambrosio’s family was not disclosed.

Unusual respite from surging health care costs

WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans kept health care spending in check for three years in a row, the government reported Monday, an unusual respite that could linger if the economy stays soft or fade like a mirage if job growth comes roaring back.

The nation’s health care tab stood at \$2.7 trillion in 2011, the latest year available, said non-partisan number crunchers with the Department of Health and

Human Services. That’s 17.9 percent of the economy, which averages out to \$8,680 for every man, woman and child, far more than any other economically advanced country spends. Still, it was the third straight year of historically low increases in the United States. The 3.9 percent increase meant that health care costs grew in line with the overall economy in 2011 instead of surging ahead as they normally have during a re-

covery. A health care bill that grows at about the same rate as the economy is affordable; one that surges ahead is not.

The respite means President Barack Obama and lawmakers in Congress have a window to ease in tighter cost controls this year, if they can manage to reach a broader agreement on taxes and spending. Health care spending is projected to spike up again in 2014, as Obama’s law covering the uninsured

takes full effect, before settling down to a new normal.

“Economic, income and job growth in 2011 was modest and less than might normally be expected during an economic recovery,” said the report from the government’s National Health Expenditure Accounts Team. “This fact raises questions about whether the near future will hold the type of rebound in health care spending typically seen a few years after a downturn.”

Greek govt majority trimmed over accounts scandal

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—A junior partner in Greece’s three-party governing coalition kicked two of its lawmakers out of its parliamentary group Monday, reducing the troubled government’s majority, as a result of a scandal over a list of Greeks with Swiss bank accounts.

The Democratic Left party expelled Odysseas Voudouris and Paris Moutsinas for saying

they would support the opposition Syriza party’s proposal to impeach former finance minister Evangelos Venizelos, who heads the coalition’s Socialist party, over alleged mishandling of the list.

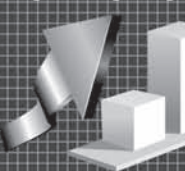
French authorities in 2010 gave the Greek government the names of 2,000 Greeks who held accounts at HSBC bank in Switzerland until 2007. The list

was drawn from data on 24,000 customers reportedly stolen from the bank.

Greek authorities are to examine the list for possible tax evasion. But critics accuse successive governments of failing for more than two years to use the data to investigate potential tax evasion while the country struggled to emerge from its severe financial crisis.

The government has already called for the impeachment of another former finance minister, George Papaconstantinou, for allegedly removing the names of three of his relatives from the document when he received it from the French. Court officials last month said cross-checks with a fresh version of the list showed the three names were missing from the first copy.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P
13,384.29	3,098.81	1,461.89
-50.92	0.00	-4.58
-0.38%	0.00%	-0.31%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms			
Australian Dollar	0.9541	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7518
British Pound	0.6208	Indian Rupee	55.305
Canadian Dollar	0.987	Indonesian Rupiah	9,834
Chinese Yuan	6.2259	Japanese Yen	87.49
Euro	0.7617	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0432
		New Zealand Dollar	1.1962
		Philippine Peso	40.86
		Singapore Dollar	1.2306
		South Korean Won	1,062.9
		Swiss Franc	0.9209
		Taiwan Dollar	29.026
		Thailand Baht	30.44

Nation

Obama digs in for a fight on Hagel, Brennan picks

WASHINGTON (AP)—Digging in for a fight, President Barack Obama riled Senate Republicans and some Democrats, too, on Monday by nominating former senator and combat veteran Chuck Hagel to lead the Pentagon and anti-terrorism chief John Brennan as the next

director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Hagel and Brennan, in separate Senate confirmation hearings, will face sharp questions on a range of contentious issues, including U.S. policy about Israel and Iran, targeted drone attacks and harsh interrogation

tactics. Of the two men, Hagel is expected to face a tougher path, though both are likely to be confirmed.

Hagel would be the first enlisted soldier and first Vietnam veteran to head the Pentagon.

"These two leaders have dedicated their lives to pro-

tecting our country," Obama said, standing alongside them and the men they would succeed during a ceremony in the White House East Room. "I urge the Senate to confirm them as soon as possible so we can keep our nation secure and the American people safe."

For Obama, a pair of combat-

ive confirmation hearings could turn into a distraction as he opens his second term. But the president signaled he was ready to take that risk.

Hagel, a former Republican senator from Nebraska, has been criticized as hostile toward Israel and soft on Iran. Opponents also have highlighted his 1998 comments about an ambassador nominee whom he called "openly, aggressively gay"—a comment for which he recently apologized.

Brennan, a 25-year CIA veteran, was under consideration to

run the agency after Obama won the 2008 election but withdrew his name amid criticism from liberal activists who questioned his connection to the harsh interrogation techniques used by the CIA during the George W. Bush administration.

One of Hagel's toughest critics, Sen. Lindsay Graham, R-S.C., called his former colleague's foreign policy views "outside the mainstream" and said he would be "the most antagonistic secretary of defense toward the state of Israel in our nation's history."



President Barack Obama and his choice for Defense Secretary, former Nebraska Sen. Chuck Hagel, left, listen as the president's choice for CIA Director, Deputy National Security Adviser for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, John Brennan, right, speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, Jan. 7, 2013, where the president made the announcement.

Chuck Hagel

Nominee for secretary of defense

Early years

Born In 1946, in Nebraska

Education B.A. in history, University of Nebraska at Omaha, 1971

Military service Served in U.S. Army during Vietnam War; many awards, including two Purple Hearts and the Army Commendation Medal

Political career

1971-1977 Staffer for Rep. John Y. McCollister (R-Neb.)

1980 Organizer for Ronald Reagan's presidential bid

1981-1982 Deputy VA administrator; resigned after opposing funding cuts

1997-2009 U.S. senator; voted in 2002 for military action in Iraq, but soon criticized the Bush administration's handling of the war, angering many Republican colleagues

Selected other work

- President of McCarthy Group, an investment bank
- Professor at Georgetown University School of Foreign Service
- Chairman of the Atlantic Council, a moderate international affairs group

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Source: Atlantic Council, N.Y. Times
MCT Photo Service

Colo. shooting families listen to police testimony

CENTENNIAL, Colo. (AP)—The officers struggled to hold back the tears as they recalled the Colorado theater shooting: discovering a 6-year-old girl without a pulse, trying to keep a wounded man from jumping out of a moving police car to go back for his 7-year-old daughter, screaming at a gunshot victim not to die.

"After I saw what I saw in the theater—horrific—I didn't want anyone else to die," said Officer Justin Grizzle, who ferried the wounded to the hospital.

A bearded, disheveled James Holmes, the man accused of going on the deadly rampage, didn't appear to show any emotion as Grizzle and the other officers testified Monday in a packed courtroom as survivors and families of those who died watched quietly. At one point, a woman buried her head in her hands when an officer recalled finding the 6-year-old girl.

"He's heartless. He really is. He has no emotion. He has no feeling. I don't know anybody can live that way," Sam Soudani said of the gunman afterward. His 23-year-old daughter survived after being hit by shrapnel from an explosive device at the theater. On the first day of a hearing that will determine whether there's enough evidence to put Holmes on trial, the testimony brought back the raw emotions from the days following the July 20 attack at the suburban Denver theater that left 12 people dead and dozens wounded.

The massacre thrust the problems of gun violence and mental illness into the forefront before they receded in the ensuing months. Now, just weeks after a shooting spree at a Newtown, Conn., elementary school left 20 children and six adults dead, prosecutors are laying out their case with the nation embroiled in a debate over gun violence and mental illness.

Woman pleads guilty in 'total identity theft' case

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—An illegal immigrant accused of assuming the persona of a Texas teacher pleaded guilty Monday in a case that put a face on the growing crime of "total identity theft" in the United States.

Benita Cardona-Gonzalez, a Mexican national living in Topeka, pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of possessing fraudulent identification documents in a deal with prosecutors that calls for an 18-month prison term.

The 32-year-old was accused of completely assuming the persona of Houston elementary school teacher Candida Gutierrez, who first went public in a story by The Associated Press. Gutierrez recounted how the thief not only opened bank and credit accounts, but assumed her entire persona—using it to get a job, a driver's license, a mortgage, food stamps and even medical care for the birth of two children. All the while, the crook claimed the real Gutierrez was the one who had stolen her identity.

As part of the plea deal, Cardona-Gonzalez agreed not to contest deportation after serving her sentence.

Defense lawyer Matthew Works said after Monday's hearing in Wichita that his client was sorry and didn't intend to harm Gutierrez.

"She wanted to give her children a better life. That is what this is all about," Works said.

Gutierrez said in a phone in-



In this Oct. 4, 2012, file photo, Houston school teacher Candida Gutierrez talks in Houston about the frustration of having her identity stolen several years ago.

terview Monday that she plans to attend the sentencing, which is scheduled for March 25.

"I want to see her face to face. I want to see it actually happening," Gutierrez said. "After all this time, I am still haunted. I want to be sure she is put away."

Gutierrez said she would have liked to see Cardona-Gonzalez spend more than 18 months in prison after everything she put her through. Still, she said she was satisfied with the plea deal because she and her husband want to get the case over with and move on with their lives.

She praised the U.S. attorney's office in Kansas and said Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson even came to Houston to talk to her about the deal. He returned her original Social

Security card and birth certificate, she said.

"They were pretty amazing getting on it once we contacted them," Gutierrez said. "Brent was informative and helpful. He was very efficient."

Gutierrez first learned her identity had been hijacked when she was turned down for a mortgage nearly 12 years ago. Both women claimed they were identity theft victims and sought new Social Security numbers. The Social Security Administration turned down the request from Gutierrez, instead issuing a new number to the woman impersonating her. In another twist, Gutierrez was forced to file her federal income tax forms using a special identification number usually reserved for illegal immigrants.

Drilling barge pulled from rocks off Alaska island

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A large floating drill rig that ran aground a week ago on a remote Alaska island arrived as planned Monday in the shelter of a Kodiak Island bay after being towed about 45 miles through swells as high as 15 feet, officials said.

The Royal Dutch Shell PLC vessel was lifted off rocks late Sunday and towed away from the southeast side of Sitkalidak Island, where it sat exposed to the full-on fury of Gulf of Alaska winter storms since grounding near the beach there on New Year's Eve.

The Kulluk—a circular barge with a diameter as long as nearly three basketball courts—was towed for about 12 hours to the protected waters in Kiliuda Bay, where it will undergo further inspection, including an underwater look at its hull.

"We could not be more im-

pressed with the caliber of the response and recovery crews who were safe and meticulous in their effort to move the Kulluk offshore," Shell Alaska spokesman Curtis Smith said by email.

The vessel will remain in the bay 43 miles southwest of the city of Kodiak until inspectors review its condition and the Coast Guard clears it to travel. Shell incident commander Sean Crutchfield said there's no timetable for departure.

"Until we have that damage assessment, we'll not be able to develop those plans," Crutchfield said at a news conference Monday. The massive effort to move and salvage the ship involves more than 730 people, according to the Unified Command, which includes the Coast Guard, Shell and contractors involved in the tow and salvage operation. Eleven people

are aboard the ship—a salvage crew of 10 people and one Shell representative

Shell earlier reported superficial damage above the deck and seawater that entered through open hatches. Water has knocked out regular and emergency generators, but portable generators were put on board last week. The Kulluk is 266 feet in diameter with a derrick in its middle and a funnel-shaped, reinforced steel hull that allows it to operate in ice. Its derrick rises 160 feet. The barge drilled last year in the Beaufort Sea and was headed to Seattle for upgrades and maintenance when it ran into trouble. Its towing vessel, the 360-foot anchor handler Aiviq, on Dec. 27 lost its line to the Kulluk in heavy seas and hours later lost power to all four of its engines, possibly due to contaminated fuel.

Asia

Hearings, trial closed in Indian rape case

NEW DELHI (AP)—An Indian magistrate ruled Monday that the media will not be allowed to attend pre-trial hearings or the trial of the five men accused of raping and killing a young student in the Indian capital, a police official said.

Magistrate Namrita Aggarwal upheld the prosecutor's request that the media be barred from attending the proceedings, according to police spokesman Rajan Bhagat. Hundreds of journalists, lawyers from other cases and curious onlookers had crowded the courtroom where the five were to appear. Outside the courthouse complex, more than a dozen TV satellite trucks jammed the streets, and dozens of reporters—from India, the U.S., Japan and elsewhere—were waiting for news.

The five defendants later appeared before the magistrate, who scheduled another pre-trial hearing on Thursday that is expected to result in the case being sent to a special "fast-track" court. Indian courts are notoriously slow, with some



Indian policemen stand guard outside the Saket district court where the accused in a gang rape are being tried, in New Delhi, India, Monday, Jan. 7, 2013.

cases dragging on for decades. The trial is expected to begin in the coming days. Indian rape trials are normally closed to the media.

Authorities have charged the

men with murder, rape and other crimes that could bring them the death penalty. The crime caused nationwide outrage, leading to massive protests.

A sixth suspect, who is 17

years old, is expected to be tried in a juvenile court, where the maximum sentence would be three years in a reform facility.

Prosecutor Rajiv Mohan said last week that a DNA test con-

firmed that the blood of the victim matched blood stains found on the clothes of all the accused.

On Sunday, two of the defendants offered to become "ap-provers," or informers against the others, according to reporters present at the hearing. The two were presumably seeking lighter sentences.

The companion of the student recounted in a television interview last week how the pair was attacked for 2 1/2 hours on a New Delhi bus before being thrown on the side of the road, where passersby ignored them and police debated jurisdiction issues before helping them. The student died at a Singapore hospital weeks after the Dec. 16 attack.

Indian law prohibits the disclosure of victims' identities in rape cases. While neither the companion nor the TV network, Zee News, identified the

woman, police opened an investigation into Zee News after the interview was broadcast, saying too many details about the attack had been revealed.

The attack has led to calls for tougher rape laws and reforms of a police culture that often blames rape victims and refuses to file charges against accused attackers. The nation's top law enforcement official said the country needs to crack down on crimes against women.

Since the Dec. 16 attack, New Delhi has set up five fast-track courts to handle sexual assault cases, which often get bogged down for years. Indian courts are notorious for delays, with millions of cases pending across the country.

On Monday, the chief justice asked courts in Indian states to also set up fast-track courts to try crimes against women.

China newspaper dispute sparks petition, protest

BEIJING (AP)—A dispute over censorship at a Chinese newspaper known for edgy reporting has evolved into a political challenge for China's new leadership with prominent scholars demanding a censor's dismissal and hundreds of protesters calling for democratic reforms.

The scholars and protesters are backing journalists at the Southern Weekly in their confrontation with a top censor after the publication was forced to change a New Year's editorial calling for political reform into a tribute praising the ruling Communist Party.

Protesters, including middle school students and white-collar workers, gathered Monday outside the offices of the newspaper in the southern city of Guangzhou to lay flowers at the gate, hold signs and shout slogans calling for freedom of speech, political reform, constitutional governance and democracy.

"I feel that the ordinary people must awaken," said one of the protesters, Yuan Fengchu,

who was reached by phone. "The people are starting to realize that their rights have been taken away by the Communist Party and they are feeling that they are being constantly oppressed."

The issue also galvanized a wide variety of people on China's popular Twitter-like microblogs, with many journalists, scholars, entrepreneurs and celebrities posting messages of support for the newspaper's stance.

"One word of truth outweighs the whole world," celebrity Chinese actress Yao Chen quoted the Russian Nobel Prize Literature winner Alexander Solzhenitsyn in a post that was accompanied by the newspaper's logo.

The newspaper's name in Chinese translates literally to "Southern Weekend," and in a sign of the authorities' sensitivity about the dispute, searches on microblogs were blocked for that name and even for the otherwise mundane individual Chinese phrases "southern" and "weekend."

Political expression in the public sphere is often viewed as risky

in China, where the authoritarian government frequently harasses and even jails dissidents for pro-democracy calls.

Another protester in Guangzhou, writer and activist Wu Wei, who goes by the pen name Ye Du, said the protest marked a rare instance in which people were making overt calls for political freedom since large-scale pro-democracy demonstrations were crushed in a military crackdown in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989.

"In other cities, we've seen people march, but most of the time they are protesting environmental pollution or people's livelihood issues," Wu said. "Here they are asking for political rights, the right to protest. The Southern Weekly incident has provided an opportunity for citizens to voice their desires."

The protest came as 18 Chinese academics signed an open letter calling for the dismissal of Tuo Zhen, a provincial propaganda minister blamed for the censorship. The scholars included legal

professors, liberal economists, historians and writers.

Peking University law professor He Weifang, who was among the signers, said the newspaper's good work needed to be defended from censorship.

"Southern Weekly is known as a newspaper that exposes the truth, but after Tuo Zhen arrived in Guangdong, he constantly pressured the paper. We need to let him know that he can't do this," He said. "This incident is a test to see if the new leadership is determined to push political reform."

Six weeks ago, China installed a new generation of Communist Party leaders for the next five years, with current Vice President Xi Jinping at the helm. Some of Xi's announcements for a trimmed-down style of leadership, with reduced waste and fewer unnecessary meetings, have raised hopes in some quarters that he might favor deeper reforms in the political system to mollify a public long frustrated by local corruption.

Wildfires rage across Australia amid searing heat

SYDNEY (AP)—Firefighters battled scores of wildfires raging across southeast Australia on Tuesday with officials evacuating national parks and warning that blistering temperatures and high winds had led to "catastrophic" fire conditions in some areas.

Thousands of firefighters were on standby across the nation's most populous state of New South Wales, where fire authorities said wildfire conditions were at catastrophic threat levels—the most severe rating available—in parts of the state. All state forests and national parks were closed as a precaution and total fire bans were in place with temperatures expected to reach 45 degrees Celsius (113 Fahrenheit) in some areas.

"We are shaping up for one of the worst fire danger days on record," New South Wales Rural Fire Service Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons said. "You don't get conditions worse than this. We are at the catastrophic level and clearly in those areas leaving early is your safest option."

No deaths had been reported, although officials in Tasmania were still trying to find around 100 residents who have been missing since a fire tore through

the small town of Dunalley, east of the state capital of Hobart, last week, destroying around 90 homes. On Tuesday, police said no bodies were found during preliminary checks of the ruined houses.

Wildfires have razed 20,000 hectares (50,000 acres) of forests and farmland across southern Tasmania since Friday.

More than 100 fires were blazing across New South Wales on Tuesday, though only a handful of homes were under threat as of early afternoon. Officials were bracing for winds up to 80 kilometers per hour (50 miles per hour) later in the day that could fan the flames in unpredictable directions.

One volunteer firefighter suffered severe burns to his hands and face while fighting a grass fire near Gundaroo village, about 220 kilometers (138 miles) southwest of Sydney, the New South Wales Rural Fire Service said Monday. He was flown to a hospital in Sydney for treatment.

Wildfires are common during the Australian summer. In February 2009, hundreds of fires across Victoria state killed 173 people and destroyed more than 2,000 homes.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar rebels say government continues offensive

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Ethnic Kachin rebels in northern Myanmar say the government is keeping up air and ground attacks against them despite international calls for restraint. La Nan, a spokesman for the Kachin Independence Army, says government troops attacked guerrilla hilltop out-

posts Monday morning and used fighter planes and helicopters in aerial attacks in the afternoon. No comment was immediately available from the government. The Kachin, like Myanmar's other ethnic minorities, have long sought greater autonomy from the central government. They are the only major ethnic rebel group that has not reached a truce with President Thein Sein's elected

government, which came to power in 2011 after almost five decades of military rule.

Suspected US drone found floating in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine navy officials said Monday a suspected American drone has been found floating in the ocean off a central province, prompting

them to deploy a ship with ordinance experts after fishermen reported the object may have been a bomb. The 3-meter (10-foot) orange BQM-74e drone marked "Navy" was found by a Filipino diver and fishermen off Masbate Island on Sunday and has been turned over to local navy authorities, Philippine navy officer Capt. Jason Rommel Galang said, adding it was not clear why the un-

manned aerial vehicle ended up off Masbate.

Pakistan protests Indian attack on army post

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The Pakistani Foreign Office said Monday it has protested formally to India for an attack on its army post. A statement issued by the office said the Indian deputy high commissioner was

summoned to the Foreign Ministry over what Pakistan calls an "unprovoked" attack on an army post Sunday. The mostly Muslim mountainous Kashmir has been a flashpoint of violence between these two neighbors, who have fought two full-scale wars over control of the region.

Pakistan and India traded accusations Sunday of violating the cease-fire in the disputed northern Kashmir region.

World

Fighting in Syria as world slams Assad speech

BEIRUT (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday expressed disappointment with Syrian President Bashar Assad for rejecting the most important elements of an international roadmap to end the country's civil war—a political handover and establishment of a transitional governing body.

Assad in a rare speech Sunday outlined his own vision for ending the country's conflict with a plan that would keep him in power. He also dismissed any chance of dialogue with the armed opposition and called on Syrians to fight what he called "murderous criminals."

U.N. spokesman Martin Nesirky said Monday the secretary-general is disappointed that Assad's speech "does not contribute to a solution that could end the terrible suffering of the Syrian people." Nesirky said Ban and U.N.-Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi will continue to work for a political transition that leads to U.N.-organized elections.

The West, including the U.S. and Britain, denounced Assad's speech, which came amid stepped-up international efforts for a peaceful settlement to the Syrian conflict.

On Monday, Turkish Prime



A Free Syrian Army fighter feeds a cat bread in the old city of Aleppo, Syria, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013.

Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan also criticized the Syrian leader's initiative. He accused Assad of "state terrorism" and called on him to relinquish power.

"There is one way out for Bashar and that is to respect the will of the people and do whatever is necessary," Erdogan said at a media conference while visiting Gabon. His remarks were broadcast by Turkish state TV Monday.

The violence on the ground, meanwhile, continued unabated.

Syria's state media said Monday that government troops repulsed a rebel attack on a police school in the northern city of Aleppo.

The official SANA news agency said regime forces killed and wounded members of a "terrorist group" in the fighting late Sunday, but did not pro-

vide a number. The government and the pro-regime media refer to the rebels seeking to topple Assad as terrorists.

Aleppo, Syria's largest city and former commercial hub, has been a major front in the civil war since July, with battles often raging for control of military and security facilities such as the police school. Rebels have recently made gains around Aleppo, as well as in the east

and in the capital Damascus, bringing the civil war closer to the seat of Assad's power.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said rebels clashed with troops in the suburbs of Damascus, including in Daraya south of the capital. The Observatory said the army sent reinforcements there to join in an offensive aimed at dislodging rebels from the district, located just a few kilometers (miles) from a strategic military air base west of the capital.

Activists also reported shelling and fighting in southern Syria, as well as eastern and central Syria.

In his speech Sunday, his first public address in six months, Assad struck a defiant tone, ignoring international demands for him to step down and saying he is ready to hold a dialogue—but only with those "who have not betrayed Syria." He also vowed to continue the battle "as long as there is one terrorist left."

He offered a national reconciliation conference, elections and a new constitution but demanded regional and Western countries stop funding and arming rebels trying to overthrow his regime first.

Syria's opposition rejected

the proposal. Those fighting to topple the regime, including rebels on the ground, have repeatedly said they will accept nothing less than the president's departure, dismissing any kind of settlement that leaves him in the picture.

As expected, Assad's proposal did get support from close Syrian ally Iran.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said it contains "solutions" to the conflict and outlines "a comprehensive political process which guarantees the presence of all voices in power." Salehi called on the international community to support Assad's initiative.

"All regional and international partners should help the immediate resolution of the crisis and prevent its spread to the region," Salehi said in a statement that was carried by the state-run IRNA news agency Monday.

Previous diplomatic initiatives have failed to stem the violence, which at times has spilled over into Syria's neighboring countries, including Turkey.

The Dutch military on Monday shipped Patriot missiles to Turkey, a fellow NATO member, after the alliance agreed in December to deploy the anti-missile systems along Turkey's southern border with Syria.

State of Palestine name change shows limitations

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—With U.N. recognition of a Palestinian state in his pocket, President Mahmoud Abbas wants official documents to carry a new emblem: "State of Palestine." But scrapping the old "Palestinian Authority" logo is as far as Abbas is willing to go in provoking Israel. He is not rushing to change passports and ID cards Palestinians need to pass through Israeli crossings.

The very modesty of Abbas' move to change official stationery underscores his limited options so long as Israel remains in charge of territories the world says should one day make up that state.

"At the end of the day, the Palestinian Authority won't cause trouble for its people," Nour Odeh, a spokeswoman for Abbas' self-rule government, said of the need for caution.

Abbas won overwhelming U.N. General Assembly recognition for a state of Palestine in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem in late November, a rare diplomatic victory over a sidelined Israel. The U.N. nod was important to the Palestinians because it affirmed the borders of their future state in lands Israel captured in 1967.

Recognition, however, has not transformed the day-to-day lives of Palestinians, and some argue

that it made things worse. In apparent retaliation for the U.N. bid, Israel in December withheld its monthly \$100 million transfer of tax rebates it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority, further deepening the Abbas government's financial crisis.

Since the U.N. recognition, Abbas has maneuvered between avoiding confrontation with Israel and finding small ways to change the situation on the ground.

Last week, his government press office urged journalists to refer to a state of Palestine, instead of the Palestinian Authority, the autonomy government set up two decades ago as part of interim peace deals with Israel.

Palestinian diplomatic missions around the world have been told to use the new names, including those in countries that did not vote "yes" at the General Assembly, said Omar Awadallah, a Palestinian Foreign Ministry official.

Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev dismissed the name change as pointless but declined comment on whether Israel would retaliate in any way. "Instead of looking for gimmicks, Palestinians should negotiate with Israel to bring about the end of the conflict," he said. "That will lead to a situation of two states for two peoples."

Hagel nomination unnerves some in Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—President Barack Obama's nomination of Chuck Hagel as the next U.S. secretary of defense is causing jitters in Israel, where some circles view the former Nebraska senator as unsympathetic or even hostile.

Hagel's positions on Israel's two most pressing foreign policy issues—Iran's nuclear program and relations with the Palestinians—appear to be at odds with the Israeli government, and critics here fear the appointment could increase pressure on the Jewish state to make unwanted concessions.

The appointment could also signal further strains in what is already a cool relationship between President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is expected to win reelection later this month.

"Because of his statements in the past, and his stance toward Israel, we are worried," Reuven Rivlin, the speaker of the Israeli parliament and a member of Netanyahu's Likud Party, told The Associated Press. But, he added, the strategic partnership between the U.S. and Israel is strong and "one person doesn't

determine policy."

Netanyahu's office refused to comment on the appointment, as did officials in the Israeli foreign and defense ministries. But Rivlin's comments reflected what has been a common sentiment among analysts and commentators here in recent days. In their evening news broadcasts, Israel's three main TV stations on Monday all portrayed Hagel as cool toward Israel.

Known as a maverick in the Senate, Hagel has raised eyebrows in Israel with a series of comments and actions over the years that some here have

deemed insufficiently supportive of the Jewish state.

Hagel once said "the Jewish lobby (in the United States) intimidates a lot of people here" and does some "dumb things" that aren't "smart for Israel." He also said that "I'm not an Israeli senator. I'm a United States senator."

"I support Israel, but my first interest is I take an oath of office to the Constitution of the United States, not to a president, not to a party, not to Israel," he said.

Six years ago, he refused to sign a letter pressing the European Union to declare the Lebanese Hezbollah guerrilla group a terrorist organization.

British explorer embarks on Antarctica adventure

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—It's a six-month expedition in almost constant darkness, in the coldest place on the planet, with no chance of rescue if things go wrong. British explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes calls it one of the last remaining polar challenges: crossing Antarctica during the region's winter.

Against the backdrop of Cape Town's majestic Table Mountain, Fiennes, 68, and his five-member team left the South African port city on Monday aboard a South African polar vessel, the SA Agulhas, for what they have dubbed "The Coldest Journey." After reaching the southernmost continent, the expedition will begin its journey via the South Pole on March 21, traversing nearly 4,000 kilometers (2,485 miles) in a place, beautiful and forbidding, where temperatures often dip as low as minus 70 Celsius (minus 94 Fahrenheit).

Or colder. Antarctica has recorded the lowest temperature anywhere on the planet—a shocking minus 89.2 Celsius (minus 128.56 Fahrenheit).

The trip is particularly hazardous because no aircraft can travel inland in the winter

due to the darkness and risk that fuel will freeze, meaning there is virtually no chance of a search and rescue operation if disaster strikes.

Even Fiennes, who has spent a lifetime embracing peril, is circumspect.

"I usually look forward to expeditions, but there is such a big degree of uncertainty with this one that looking forward to it is probably not the exact right word," Fiennes said, according to the website of SABC, South Africa's state broadcaster.

"Some people will say it is irresponsible to go unless you know everything, in which case the Americans would never have gotten to the moon. If humans are going for something new, then unfortunately there are bound to be some gray areas," Fiennes said.

According to Fiennes' website, British authorities had not previously granted permits for winter expeditions in Antarctica because they were seen as too dangerous. Satellite and other communications technology will allow the team to communicate with the outside world and to provide updates on its progress.

Focus

NEW DELHI (AP)—Preeti Singh worries each time her 20-year-old daughter has a late night at the hospital where she's a medical student. If her daughter has to stay late, Singh tells her to wait for daylight to come home.

"I was brought up with the fear that once it's dark you should be at home," says Singh, a 43-year-old kindergarten teacher in Bangalore, India's technology hub. "I can't shake that fear."

Across India, women tell similar stories. Now there is hope for change.

For decades, women have had little choice but to walk away when groped in a crowded bus or train, or to simply cringe as someone tosses an obscene comment their way. Even if they haven't experienced explicit sexual abuse themselves, they live with the fear that it could happen to them or a loved one.

The gang rape and beating of a 23-year-old university student on a moving bus in India's capital has taken sexual violence—a subject long hidden in the shadows of Indian society—and thrust it into the light.

Following the Dec. 16 attack



An India woman participates in a protest against the recent gang rape of a young woman in moving bus, in New Delhi, India, Monday, Jan. 7, 2013.

Indian women hope brutal rape will spark change

in New Delhi, which resulted in the woman's death, hundreds of thousands of Indians—both men and women—poured onto the streets of cities across the country, holding candlelight vigils and rallies demanding that authorities take tougher action to create a safe environment for women.

"At least now people are talking," says Rashmi Gogia, a 35-year-old receptionist in a New Delhi law office.

Associated Press journalists interviewed women across India, from the northern cities of Lucknow and Allahabad, to Bangalore in the south, and from the eastern cities of Patna and Gauhati to Ahmadabad in the west.

The outrage sparked by the heinous attack has given women at least a measure of hope that the country of 1.2 billion people will see meaningful improvement in how women are treated, though most realize any change is likely to come slowly.

"These protests have at least given women the confidence to talk about sexual violence," says Singh, the kindergarten teacher in Bangalore. "For too long, women have been made to feel guilty for these things."

Like every woman in India, Singh has her own rules for her daughter's safety. "We make sure she messages us when she

reaches (the hospital) and when she leaves for home," she says.

Women who were willing to talk about an unwelcome touch or a crude remark they'd experienced said they had learned to ignore it. Most said they convinced themselves to shrug off these routine assaults and humiliations to avoid angering their attackers, or for fear

of bringing shame upon themselves and their families.

"What can you do? You have to work, you have to commute," says Yasmin Talat, a 20-year-old graduate student and career counselor in Allahabad whose parents do not allow her to go out alone after 7 p.m.

"Sometimes I do get angry and say something," she says,

"but I'm also scared. You never know what could anger these men."

Aparna Dasa, a 35-year-old saleswoman at a Gauhati department store, said whenever she gets into a crowded bus men try to hold her hand as she grasps the overhead support bar. "They try and touch at every opportunity."

"When I'm on a crowded bus and someone says something bad to me, in my heart I want to give him a tight slap, but I've learned to ignore it," says Gogia, the New Delhi receptionist. "What's the use? All the blame always comes back to the woman."

"We stay silent from a sense of shame," she adds, "or are made to stay silent."

The harassment and violence faced daily by millions of Indian women is a deeply entrenched part of a culture that values men over women.

The mistreatment starts early—with sex-selective abortions and even female infanticides that have wildly skewed India's gender ratio. India's 2011 census showed that the country had 914 girls under age 6 for every 1,000 boys.

Indian movies and television shows routinely trivialize women. In the often suggestive songs and dances of Bollywood films, it's not unusual for the leading man and a gang of his buddies to chase a coyly reluctant actress, touching, pulling and throwing themselves on top of her.

On television, the most popular soap operas show the ideal Indian woman as meek, submissive and accepting of her traditional role inside the home.

Any discussion of sexual vio-

lence has so far been taboo. In the past, politicians have said that women should dress modestly and not stay out late to avoid rape and molestations.

But following the New Delhi gang rape, a usually lethargic government machinery has responded more quickly, and with more empathy than before. Perhaps sensing the intensity of public anger—some activists and protesters have demanded that all rapists be chemically castrated, given the death penalty or even lynched in public—the government has vowed to enlist more women police officers and toughen sexual assault laws.

The public outpouring of anger and support has made many women across India feel like their fears and concerns are finally being heard.

Ranjana Kumari, director of the Center for Social Research and a longtime women's rights activist, said the fact that boys and men had joined the protests "gives us hope."

"Then it becomes everyone's issue, and not just a women's issue," she said.

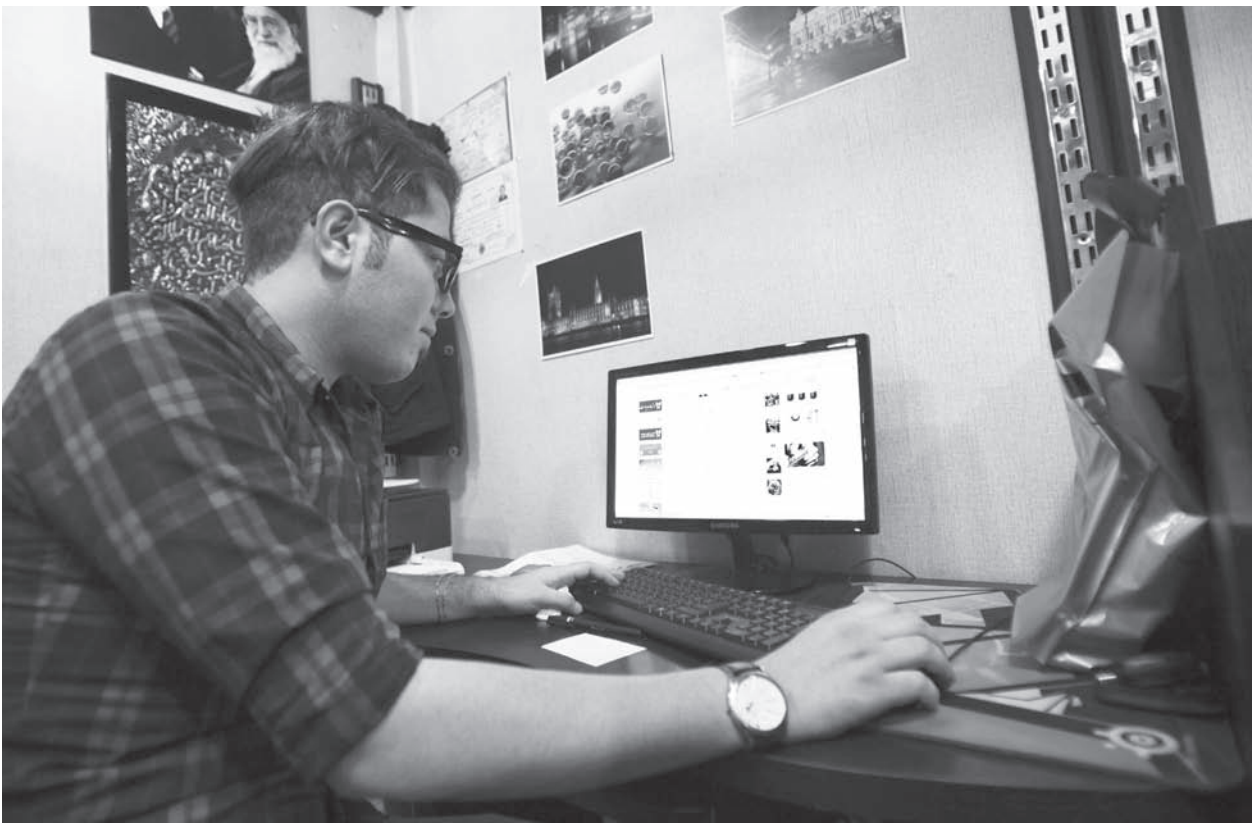
But no one imagines that change will be quick.

"The process is gradual," Kumari said. "Extremely patriarchal societies don't change in short bursts. But this movement will certainly not go to waste."



Amran sits on an indefinite hunger strike at Jantar Mantar to protest against the recent gang rape of a young woman in moving bus, in New Delhi, India, Monday, Jan. 7, 2013.

Campus Life



A student uses a computer in an Internet cafe at a shopping center, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013.

AP

US colleges help students polish online reputation

By CAROLYN THOMPSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP)—Samantha Grossman wasn't always thrilled with the impression that emerged when people Googled her name.

"It wasn't anything too horrible," she said. "I just have a common name. There would be pictures, college partying pictures, that weren't of me, things I wouldn't want associated with me."

So before she graduated from Syra-

cuse University last spring, the school provided her with a tool that allowed her to put her best Web foot forward. Now when people Google her, they go straight to a positive image—professional photo, cum laude degree and credentials—that she credits with helping her land a digital advertising job in New York.

"I wanted to make sure people would find the actual me and not these other people," she said.

Syracuse, Rochester and Johns Hop-

kins in Baltimore are among the universities that offer such online tools to their students free of charge, realizing ill-considered Web profiles of drunken frat parties, prank videos and worse can doom graduates to a lifetime of unemployment—even if the pages are somebody else's with the same name.

It's a growing trend based on studies showing that most employers Google prospective hires and nearly all of them won't bother to go past the first page of results. The online tools don't eliminate

the embarrassing material; they just put the graduate's most flattering, professional profile front and center.

"These students have been comfortable with the intimate details of their lives on display since birth," said Lisa Severy, president-elect of the National Career Development Association and director of career services at the University of Colorado-Boulder, which does not offer the service.

"The first item on our 'five things to do before you graduate' list is 'clean up your online profile,'" she said. "We call it the grandma test—if you don't want her to see it, you probably don't want an employer to, either."

After initially supplying BrandYourself accounts to graduating seniors, Syracuse University this year struck a deal with the company—begun by a trio of alumni—to offer accounts to all of its undergraduate and graduate students and alumni at no additional charge. About 25,000 people have access to it so far.

"It's becoming more and more important for students to be aware of and able to manage their online presence, to be able to have strong, positive things come up on the Internet when someone seeks them out," said Mike Cahill, Syracuse's career services director.

Online reputation repair companies have been around for at least a couple of years, often charging hundreds or thousands of dollars a year to arrange for good results on search engine result pages. BrandYourself, which normally charges \$10 a month for an account, launched two years ago as a less expensive, do-it-yourself alternative after co-founder Pete Kistler ran into a problem with his own name.

"He couldn't get an internship because he was getting mistaken for a drug dealer with the same name," said co-founder Patrick Ambron. "He couldn't even get calls back and found out that was the problem."

An April survey of 2,000 hiring managers from CareerBuilder found nearly two in five companies use social net-

working sites to research job candidates, and 11 percent said they planned to start. A third of the hiring managers who said they research candidates reported finding something like a provocative photo or evidence of drinking or drug use that cost the candidate a job.

"We want our students and alumni actively involved in shaping their online presence," said Johns Hopkins Career Center Director Mark Presnell. Students are encouraged to promote positive, professional content that's easily found by employers, he said.

BrandYourself works by analyzing search terms in a user's online profile to determine, for example, that a LinkedIn account might rank 25th on Google searches of the user's name. The program then suggests ways to boost that ranking. The software also provides alerts when an unidentified result appears on a user's first page or if any links rise or fall significantly in rank.

Nati Katz, a public relations strategist, views his presence online as a kind of virtual storefront that he began carefully tending while in graduate school at Syracuse.

Google his name and up pops his LinkedIn page with a listing of the jobs he's held in digital media and the "500+ connections" badge of honor. His Facebook account is adorned with Katz smiling over an elegant Thanksgiving dinner table. There are a couple of professional profiles and his Tumblr link, one after another on the first page of results and all highlighting his professional experience.

Before his 2011 graduation, he took the university up on its offer of the BrandYourself account and said it gave him a leg up with potential employers and internship supervisors.

"Fortunately, I didn't have to deal with anything negative under my profile," said Katz, who used the reputation website BrandYourself.com while pursuing dual degrees in public relations and international affairs. "What I was trying to form was really a nice, clean, neat page, very professional."

Students make University of Kentucky a laboratory for training service dogs

By LINDA B. BLACKFORD
LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

LEXINGTON, Ky.—Chevy is nine weeks and 10 pounds of honey-colored fuzz who prompts sighs and coos just by walking up the stairs at the University of Kentucky's Funkhauser Hall.

Students approach tentatively, hands held out, but Chevy is off limits to much cuddling. He is a Wildcat Service Dog, learning to be more than a pet, even at this young age.

"You can pet him as long as he's sitting or lying down," said Katie Skarvan, a University of Kentucky junior, who is Chevy's temporary owner and trainer.

Chevy, a golden retriever, doesn't look overwhelmed by the attention, nor does he wriggle or try to lick anyone's face. Even at this young age, he's a serious pup, and he's bred to be that way, Skarvan said.

He's owned by Paws with a Purpose, a Louisville, Ky., service dog organization, and was given to Wildcat Service Dogs for up to a year for training. Skarvan, who's from Louisville, Ky., started volunteering with Paws with a Purpose in seventh grade.

She started college at Texas A&M, where she worked with the Aggie Service Dog group. When she transferred

to UK as a sophomore, she wanted to start a similar group there.

"I wanted to be more involved with training them," Skarvan said.

She approached the UK administration about allowing the dogs-in-training and they agreed. Wildcat Service Dogs now has six trainers, and another 20 students who help out with puppy-sitting. The Wildcat dogs usually stay with their student trainers for 12-18 months.

Service dogs have caught on at UK. Another organization, the Xenia, Ohio-based 4 Paws for Ability, helped UK students start a program on campus, said Caitlin Little, the senior who leads the group.

4 Paws for Ability focuses mainly on finding service dogs for children, so they have to be intensively socialized, said Little. Last spring, 22 young dogs were on campus. The students usually keep the dogs for one semester.

"We have the dogs to socialize them," Little said. "Everywhere we go the dogs go—they learn how to act in public."

Service dogs are not guide dogs, which guide the blind. Service dogs help the sick or disabled with a multitude of problems, such as physical disabilities, illnesses or disorders such as autism in children.

Both groups work mostly with re-



LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER/MCT

Katie Skarvan trains Chevy, a golden retriever puppy, to be a service dog at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture on December 6, 2012, in Lexington, Kentucky.

trievers, or Labradors, although Little said her group also works with much smaller Papillons. Those dogs go to students who live in the UK dorms, where they fit better.

Both groups also have monthly training sessions, where they work on specialized commands for the dogs. When the dogs graduate—and not all of them do—the parent organizations will find owners for them. The trained dogs are valuable. One dog that Skarvan trained was sold for \$20,000.

Skarvan said the Wildcat Service

Dogs work a lot on learning to guide their owners' hands to automatic door openers, or learning to open them themselves. They teach them to automatically sit under furniture, where they will be out of the way.

After they graduate, usually at age two, they are expected to be in service from five to seven years.

"The hardest thing is finding a quality breeder," Skarvan said.

Chevy was bred by Jamie Young, a veterinarian, who has worked on breeding calm, stalwart dogs.

The group gets money from the Student Government Association, and student members pay dues. They get help with vets' bills from Chevy Chase Animal Clinic.

Agriculture professor Roger Brown is the sponsor of Wildcat Service Dogs and says the group helps students learn more responsibility while educating those on campus about service dogs.

"This is not just about the mundane process of training a service animal that will later benefit someone who has a disability," Brown said. "The major portion is to educate people about the importance of service animals and how they get trained, that's the area that has the most positive effect on students."

The hard part, Skarvan says, is giving the dogs up after spending more than a year with them. Her first Paws with a Purpose dog, Graham, went to a woman with mobility assistance. She's already gotten attached to Chevy.

Kyle Campbell, one of the students who wanted to pat Chevy in Funkhauser Hall, is a member of 4 Paws for Ability. He had just given up the Golden Retriever puppy he socialized all semester.

"I cried so much when I gave her up," he said. "But I'm doing it again next semester."

Life & Style

Brad Pitt tweets to Chinese that he's coming

BEIJING (AP)—Brad Pitt is now on China's version of Twitter,

and his first enigmatic tweet drew thousands of comments.

Just as mysteriously, it later disappeared.

The actor's verified Sina Weibo account sent the message Monday: "It is the truth. Yup, I'm coming." That was forwarded more than 31,000 times and netted over 14,000 comments, many expressing surprise. He gathered more than 100,000 followers.



Pitt

his PR team or Chinese censors. Chinese censors regularly delete tweets and even accounts that they deem sensitive. The government requires Sina and other Internet companies to do this in-house at their own cost, under threat of fines and shutdowns if they fail.

ment was upset about the film's portrayal of harsh Chinese rule in Tibet. His later film "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" with Angelina Jolie was popular in China.

Pop and movie stars use Weibo as a way to connect with the giant Chinese market. To get a certified account overseas celebrities have to submit copies of their ID and job evidence among other documents.

Tom Cruise joined Sina Weibo in 2011 and now has over 5 million followers.

Former NBA star Stephon Marbury who now plays for China's professional basketball league is prolific on Weibo and has over 779,000 followers.

But by Tuesday morning the tweet had disappeared, and a standard message read "He hasn't tweeted yet." The number of his followers kept growing, however.

It was unclear whether the deletion was the work of Pitt and

A request for comment from Pitt's manager was not immediately answered.

The IMDb.com movie website says Pitt was banned from ever entering China because of his role in the 1997 "Seven Years in Tibet." The govern-

Panasonic unveils bone-conduction TV headphones

LAS VEGAS (AP)—People who don't want to disturb sleeping family members could use a new product from Panasonic that doesn't need speakers or even your own ears: wireless bone-conduction headphones.

The headphones connect to a TV via the Bluetooth wire-

less standard and attach to your head like a normal set of headphones. But instead of using your ears, the headphones work like hearing aids by transmitting sound waves through your skull.

They are one of several innovations Panasonic unveiled at the International CES show

in Las Vegas. It also showed off a new user interface for its "Smart Viera" TVs, featuring a TV-mounted camera that recognizes the user and sets viewing preferences accordingly.

The Japanese electronics maker also showed off an easy way to send YouTube videos from smartphones to the TV.



Panasonic's Shiro Kitajima, far right, and Vic Carlson, introduces the bone construction headphones during a news conference at the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, Monday, Jan. 7, 2013.

'The Walking Dead' was 2012's top-selling comic

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Stilted gaits and mindless shambling did nothing to stop demand for Image Comics' "The Walking Dead" series, with the 100th issue of Robert Kirkman's acclaimed series garnering the top spot as 2012's top-selling comic book.

The book, published by Image Comics, led the annual list of top-selling comics compiled by Diamond Comic Distributors, the Baltimore company that distributes comics, graphic novels and pop-culture merchandise worldwide.

The series' 100th issue was published in July and has been garnering new readers, thanks in part to the ongoing television series of the same name that runs on AMC. In the issue, Kirkman shocked longtime readers by graphically killing off a key character, a development that saw the book sell out and go through three printings because of demand.

Readers were also keen on capes and villains, too, and demand for Marvel Entertainment's "Avengers vs. X-Men," a 12-issue miniseries written by Jason Aaron, Brian Michael Bendis, Ed Brubaker, Matt Fraction and Jonathan Hickman and illustrated by artists John



This comic book cover image released by Image Comics shows issue 100 from The Walking Dead series, "Something to Fear." The issue claims the top spot as 2012's top-selling comic book.

Romita Jr., Olivier Coipel and Adam Kubert, helped the publisher grab eight of the top 10 spots on Diamond's chart.

The only other titles on the chart not part of the superhero dust-up between Marvel's two biggest teams was the 700th issue of "The Amazing Spider-Man." In that issue, written by Dan Slott and illustrated by Humberto Ramos, Peter Parker dies at the hands of Doctor

Octopus who, in turn, vows to continue Parker's legacy of good by becoming Superior Spider-Man. The others were "Uncanny Avengers" No. 1 and "Avengers" No. 1, both of which followed the conclusion of "Avengers Vs. X-Men."

Those sales helped Marvel finish 2012 with a 34 percent dollar market share and a nearly 37.6 percent market share by unit. DC Entertainment was No. 2 with a nearly 32 percent dollar market share and a nearly 36.8 percent unit market share.

The industry itself showed improved sales in 2012, Diamond said, with comic book sales up nearly 15 percent and graphic novels up 14 percent from 2011.

"2012 was a terrific year for comic books and graphic novels," Diamond CEO Steve Geppi said in a statement. "Our publishers did a tremendous job of creating compelling story lines that comic book fans wanted to see—from Marvel's 'Avengers vs. X-Men' followed by its 'Marvel NOW!' titles later in the year to DC's powerful New 52 ongoing titles. Add in Dark Horse Comics' horror line-up, IDW's 'My Little Pony' and Image Comics' creator-driven hits and it was quite a year."

In Celebration of His New Life † Juan Selepeo Pua

Lovingly known as "Tan Kuku"

Born to life on December 05, 1935 and was called to eternal rest on January 04, 2013

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Wife: †Lourdes Hocog Atalig Pua
Parents: †Juan Neliga Pua & †Juana Selepeo Pua
Brothers: †Pedro S. Ruboenog, †Damian S. Pua, †Jesus S. Pua
Sisters: †Adela S. Lifofoi, †Antonia P. Kani, †Marcelina P. Taitano
Parents In-Law: †Jesus M. Atalig & †Ursula H. Atalig
Daughter In-Law: †Trinidad T. Pua

His Memories Will Forever Live in the Hearts of His:

Brother: Theodoro Selepeo
Wife: Marita Bermudez Pua
Parents In-Law: Carlos & Adrica Bermudez

Children, Grandchildren, and Great grandchildren:

Eddie A. & Doris B. Pua (Erica P. & Jay Atalig and child, Hans B. Pua and children, Keoni B. Pua & Vicky Cabrera and child, Doreen B. Pua & Nathan Pangelinan)
Lorenza P. & Ricardo P. Castro (Jesse A. & Deveyan C. Pua and children, Zenia P. Castro & Jesse Saralu and child, Byron P. Castro & Ana Marie F. Teregeyo and children, Darrel P. Castro/Paula Reyes and child, Richard & Velma M. Castro and children, Dewayne & Misato Castro and child)
Alfredo A. & Susan M. Pua (Corina L. Magofna & Joey Rios and child, Wayne M. Pua and child, Quinn M. Pua, Samantha M. Pua, Keonu M. Pua)
Remedio P. & Jose P. San Nicolas (Joseph P. San Nicoals & Norma Reyes and children, Derek P. San Nicolas & Isabel Sablan and children, Maynard P. San Nicolas & Jovan Fred, Myron P. San Nicolas and child, Frances P. San Nicolas)
Sylvan A. & Jeannie Pangelinan (Delbert T. Pua, Darren T. Pua, Daylan T. Pua)
Martin A. & Rosa L. Pua (Roquita Norita & Mike Cruz and child, Shaun L. & Samantha DLG. Pua and child, Nashlyn L. Pua, Kendra L. Pua)
James A. & Patrocinia M. Pua (Lou Frances M. Pua)
Winfred A. Pua & Annette J. Castro (Amber Garrido and children, Vince Garrido, Bradley J. Castro, Brandon C. Pua, Napu C. Pua, Loujuana C. Pua)

He will be greatly missed by numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Mass of Intentions are being celebrated every evening at Santa Remedios Church at 6:00PM and followed by Holy Rosary at 7:30PM.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2013. His remains will be escorted from CHC Chapel at 7:30AM to Santa Remedios Church. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will immediately take place upon his arrival. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00AM followed by interment service at Tanapag Cemetery where he will Rest In Peace.

Please Join Us in Prayers.

The Family

Letterman says he sees psychiatrist weekly



This Nov. 26, 2012 file photo shows Ball State University alumnus David Letterman, right, host of CBS's "Late Show," with Oprah Winfrey following an interview at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

PASADENA, California (AP)—Three years after an extortion scandal that led him to bare his infidelities, David Letterman said he sees a psychiatrist once a week to try to be the person that he believed he was.

The late-night talk show host gave an extraordinary interview to Oprah Winfrey in which he talked about his feud with her and Jay Leno, and about his efforts to make amends for his affairs with "Late Show" staff members that became public in 2009.

"For a long time I thought I was a decent guy," Letterman said. "But yet, thinking I was a decent guy, I was still capable of behavior that wasn't coincidental to leading a decent life. That's what I'm working on. I want to really be the person I believe that I was. I wanna be a good person."

The interview aired Sunday on Winfrey's OWN network and will be repeated Jan. 20. It was recorded in November.

Letterman said his wife, Regina, has forgiven him, and he

tries every day to regain her trust. He said he still hasn't forgiven himself.

Letterman said he went through depression that he described as a sinkhole that he thought he wouldn't come out of. But with medication, he said, he pulled through and told Winfrey he now has compassion for others who have gone through depression.

"I always thought, 'Aw, you're depressed? Go do some push-ups and you'll feel better,'" he said. "But it's not that."

Details of the affairs emerged after a television producer threatened to unveil them if Letterman didn't give him money. The producer was later jailed for four months.

Letterman took control of the story in 2009 by coming clean about his affairs on his show before the details came out. He acknowledged before making the announcement that he had other motives.

"In the back of my mind—and this will give you the extent,

the breadth and width of what a weasel I could be—I was thinking, eh, maybe I can make this, maybe I can get a little sympathy out of this deal here," he said.

Winfrey interviewed Letterman for "Oprah's Next Chapter" at Indiana's Ball State University, after being interviewed publicly by Letterman before students at the CBS comic's alma mater. They cleared the air on their own feud, which fueled Letterman's comedy for years.

Letterman said he believed it began when he called to ask Winfrey to appear on "Late Show" when he was going to do some shows in Chicago and Winfrey would not agree to appear.

Winfrey said she declined because she had been on Letterman's show before and there were drunk people in the audience who made it uncomfortable.

"I didn't want to have that experience again," she said. "That's really all it was for me."

Letterman said he didn't remember that appearance and

was sorry for what Winfrey went through. He took her hand and kissed it. "I hope we can put this behind us, Oprah," he said.

"Let us do it, David," she said.

Despite Letterman's often withering comments about his NBC rival Leno, he said they were friends before Leno was picked over Letterman to be "Tonight" show host. Letterman believes they are still friends.

"He is the funniest guy I've ever known," Letterman said. "Just flat out, if you go to see him do his nightclub act, just the funniest, the smartest, a wonderful observationalist and very appealing as a comic. Therefore, the fact that he is also maybe the most insecure person I have ever known ... I could never reconcile that."

Letterman said some of the trash-talking between the two is simply the way comics often act toward one another.

Bruce Bobbins, a Leno spokesman, said Monday the NBC comic had no comment on Letterman's interview.

Jimmy Kimmel moves to late-night's sweet spot

LOS ANGELES (AP)—During production of his final post-midnight show, Jimmy Kimmel's studio audience waited patiently while he taped a string of promotional spots.

"Hey, Denver: You, me, now at 10:35. Let's not be weird about this," the host quipped to the camera in his Hollywood Boulevard studio.

"This will be good for us," Kimmel said earnestly in another local station promo.

The message in each spot—whether "Jimmy Kimmel Live" is on at 11:35 p.m. EST (0435 GMT)—is that Kimmel will be playing in the same league as veterans Jay Leno and David Letterman, starting Tuesday with guests Jennifer Aniston and No Doubt.

The message Kimmel delivered to a recent teleconference was equally concise: He won't be changing his style for the move, pushing aside conventional wisdom that edgier late-night humor won't play in Peoria or elsewhere before the clock strikes 12.

It's "Jimmy Kimmel Live," after all, that has given the world such brashly funny videos as the Matt Damon-Sarah Silverman musical romp with bleep-worthy lyrics.

"There's this idea that you need to broaden the show or make it ... more wholesome or something like that. And I think that's a little bit out-of-date, that perception," Kimmel told reporters.

"I guess only time will tell," he added, in his typically low-key delivery.

Just as with Kimmel's promised approach to the most coveted time period in late-night, ABC is taking a bold step by swapping "Nightline" with his show. The news program, offering viewers a non-talk show option, has been the period's ratings leader.

But the network likely won't be sweating the early returns, according to analyst Brad Adgate of Horizon Media. He says putting Kimmel into the pre-midnight pocket, when more viewers are still up and watching, is a strategy aimed at an inevitable future.

"Leno and Letterman aren't going to be doing this forever," Adgate said, and ABC gives him a head start on establishing himself by putting him on now.

"This is something you may scratch your head at now, but in five years from now he's the

incumbent and the leader" in the time period, the analyst said.

Long-term schemes, of course, don't always pan out. Despite anointing Conan O'Brien as its new "Tonight" host five years before he made the move in 2009, NBC ended up with a mess on its hands that saw O'Brien bolt to TBS and Leno retake "Tonight" in 2010 after his short-lived prime-time series.

Whether Kimmel gets a jump on his opponents-to-be—with Jimmy Fallon the expected pick for "Tonight"—being the late-night ruler is a far different proposition than in Johnny Carson's day. The "Tonight" institution, operating virtually unopposed, could average a nightly audience of as much as 15 million.

That's unimaginable in today's fragmented TV world. Leno claims the top talk-show spot with some 3.5 million average viewers, followed by Letterman on CBS with 2.8 million. "Jimmy Kimmel Live" was drawing under 2 million nightly viewers at 12:05 Eastern but, according to Nielsen Co. ratings, finished up 2012 with a 10-year viewership high.

The demographics also have changed, with more advertiser-favored young viewers gravitating to cable options such as Adult Swim or Comedy Central and increasingly likely to catch up online with the best moments of network late-night.

But the 11:35 p.m. sweet spot remains the prize, and Kimmel may have more than the desire to succeed in mind. While he's a long-time admirer of Letterman, he's taken sharp public jabs at Leno, including blaming him for O'Brien's ill-fated tenure at "Tonight."

So Kimmel is humble about competing directly with Letterman (calling him a "legend in broadcasting" who shouldn't bat an eye at the prospect of new competition) but is throwing elbows at Leno, especially over the "Tonight" plan to get out ahead of "Jimmy Kimmel Live" by airing at 11:34 p.m. Eastern.

"Well, I think NBC has had a lot of success moving Jay Leno earlier so it makes perfect sense," he said, dryly, referring to Leno's short-lived prime-time stint. Kimmel dismissed the time-shifting as likely a brief "trick" to protect "Tonight" ratings, one that ultimately won't matter.



Kimmel



FIFA President Joseph "Sepp" Blatter, left, and French-Russian actor Gerard Depardieu, right, arrive for the FIFA Ballon d'Or Gala 2013 held at the Kongresshaus in Zurich, Switzerland, on Monday, Jan. 7, 2013.

Depardieu: 'I'm French' despite Russian passport

PARIS (AP)—Actor Gerard Depardieu denied in an interview aired Monday that he accepted a Russian passport to escape the taxman in France, and said that while he may also seek Belgian nationality, he is still French.

Depardieu's first public remarks since acquiring a Russian passport on Saturday suggest that his threat last month to turn in his French passport was a bluff, or the indignant reaction of a wounded man.

"I have a Russian passport, but I remain French and I will probably have dual Belgian nationality," he said in the interview with the sports channel L'Equipe21. "But if I'd wanted to escape the taxman, as the French press says, I would have done it a long time ago."

Depardieu, 64, is one of

France's best known actors, has appeared in more than 150 films and has an international following. He has been at the center of a heated debate over tax exiles as France's Socialist government looks to fill state coffers with a hefty tax on the rich. Depardieu drew scorn and insults with his recent decision to move to neighboring Belgium, where taxes are less steep for the well-off.

After Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault called him "pathetic" and "unpatriotic," Depardieu penned an open letter in mid-December saying he was handing in his passport and social security card. Then, over the weekend, Depardieu showed up in Russia to accept a passport delivered personally by President Vladimir Putin.

Depardieu spoke to the sports

channel from Zurich, Switzerland, on the sidelines of a soccer awards ceremony. Referring to tax exiles, Depardieu said that some high-profile rich in the entertainment industry had left France two decades ago.

Depardieu has a court date Tuesday in Paris, where he is expected to agree to a plea bargain in a case of alleged drunken driving. The burly actor was arrested after falling off his motorcycle in November and failing a sobriety test.

Elisabeth Depardieu, the actor's ex-wife, said in an interview on Monday with RTL radio that her former spouse is by nature very emotional.

"When he feels refused, he becomes provocative," she said. "Should we throw stones? He is a monument. He is a poet."

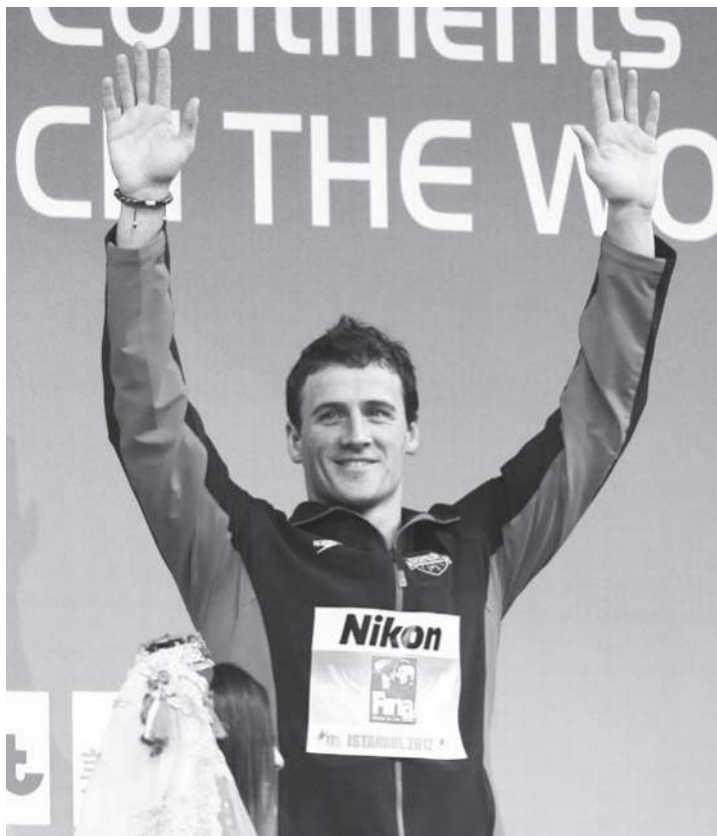
Lochte diving into reality TV with show

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Olympic champion swimmer Ryan Lochte is diving into the world of reality television with a six-episode series debuting in April.

Airing on the cable TV network E!, "What Would Ryan Lochte Do?" will follow the 28-year-old swimmer as he prepares for the 2016 Rio Olympics while developing his fashion line, making media appearances, dealing with his family and friends, and searching for a girlfriend.

"Ryan Lochte captured everyone's attention at the Summer Olympics with his athletic prowess and his utterly unique and unaffected approach to life," E! Entertainment President Suzanne Kolb said Monday.

"He is an incredibly endearing personality who is sexy,



AP
World Champion of the men's 200 meters individual medley Ryan Lochte of U.S. waves to the crowd during the victory ceremony at the FINA Short Course Swimming World Championships at the Sinan Erdem Arena in Istanbul, Turkey, Friday, Dec. 14, 2012.

entertaining and fun. Watching this show, I believe people will fall into three categories: they want to be him, sleep with him or mother him."

The show will include Lochte's family—his mother, Ike, his older married sisters Kristen and Megan, his younger brother and roommate Devon, and his nephews. Viewers will get to see the swimmer's eclectic collection of shoes that top out at more than 150 and the blinged-out accessories he favors.

Lochte, whose signature catch phrase is the made-up word "Yeah!", will be seen hitting the clubs in Gainesville, Florida, where he lives, and training with coach Gregg Troy.

He won five medals, including two golds, at the London Olympics. In the post-Olympic whirlwind, Lochte guested on the CW series "90210" and swam against Prince Harry in an impromptu race in a Las Vegas hotel pool.

Lochte's agent, Erika Wright, serves as executive producer of the show.

Online affairs with pupils put teacher's job at risk

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My husband is now involved in his third computer affair. He's a teacher, and his first one was with a student. He was almost fired over it. He apologized to me and to his supervisor, said it was an "error in judgment" and promised it would never happen again.



Last week I found an email he had sent to another former student, and the things he said to her were disgusting. The current one is a student, too.

I have a nice home and my husband is good to me except for his wandering eye. He gives me anything I want and takes me with him whenever he travels. But he is a Jekyll and Hyde when it comes to a computer and young girls—all younger than his daughter, I might add.

I know if this gets back to his boss he'll be fired. He's a brilliant man and an excellent teacher. So what do I do? I have considered doing nothing, and if he gets caught let him suffer the consequences. Or, I can confront him and try to get him to see a counselor before he ruins his career, and makes me a laughingstock of the community.

We're financially comfortable and I hate to give it up, but I don't want to live the rest of my life like this, either. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

NOT LAUGHING IN WASHINGTON STATE

DEAR NOT LAUGHING: Your husband has a serious problem. He is playing Russian roulette with his career—and it's only a matter of time until he acts inappropriately with the wrong student.

If you love him at all, confront him and insist that he talk to a counselor and learn to strengthen his impulse control. When his activities become public knowledge, as is sure to happen, you won't be the laughingstock of the community, but your husband WILL be scorned and jobless. If you want to protect your lifestyle as well as your husband's female students, insist he get professional help NOW.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a divorced "empty nester" who would like to meet a nice man to spend time with. I'm attractive, slim and active.

A year and a half ago I was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. I have excellent medical care and my doctor is optimistic. She told me she has treated many women who have survived 10 years and are still doing fine. I intend to do everything in my power to be one of those women.

I have tried meeting men on the Internet or through groups I belong to. I explain on the first date about my health issues because I don't want anyone to think I'm dishonest. Unfortunately, several men I would have liked to see again told me flat-out that they "can't deal with the cancer thing."

I don't want to spend the rest of my life—however long it may be—alone. Should I wait to tell a man about my illness until we've seen each other a few times? Or should I continue as I have, and hope I eventually find someone with enough compassion willing to take the chance?

HEALTHY NOW IN WISCONSIN

DEAR HEALTHY NOW: Compassion? How about someone intelligent enough to grasp that nobody has a guarantee about how long someone will live — including him? The appropriate time to discuss your medical history is after you have gotten to know someone well enough that you can talk frankly about it, and the relationship is beyond casual. First dates do not fall into that category.

No man who cares about you would ever walk away. And any man who would isn't worth having, so consider yourself lucky.

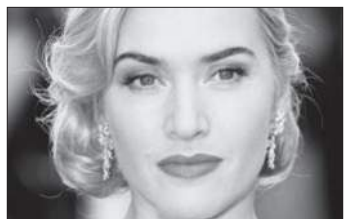
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Kate Winslet's husband fights tabloid over party photos

LONDON (AP)—Kate Winslet's new husband has gone to court in London to stop a tabloid newspaper from publishing photos of him at what he called an "outrageous" costume party.

Ned Rocknroll is asking the High Court to bar The Sun from



Winslet

running the pictures pending the outcome of his invasion of privacy claim against the newspaper.

Rocknroll, the nephew of Virgin transport and media tycoon Richard Branson, argues there is no public interest in running the photos, taken in 2010 when he was a "relative nobody." The content of the images was not disclosed. The Sun has quoted Rocknroll's lawyer, David Sherbourne, as saying they are "innocent but naive."

The 34-year-old married the Academy Award-winning actress Winslet in New York last month.

Fishburne granted restraining order

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Laurence Fishburne has been granted a temporary restraining order against an ex-convict who claims to own the actor's home and went there on New Year's Day to try to evict him.

The order requires Anthony Francis, whose real name is Mark Francisco, to stay 100 yards (100 meters) from the Oscar-nominated actor and his wife and daughter.

Francisco was sentenced to serve two years in state prison on a cyberstalking conviction in 2010, and court records show he spent time in a state mental hospital for that case. He pleaded no contest to cyberstalking after being found competent to stand trial.

Francisco went to the Oscar-nominated actor's home Jan. 1

and told Fishburne's wife that they were living there illegally. Police were called and based on Francisco's agitated demeanor and criminal history, they advised Fishburne to seek a restraining order, the court filings state.

Francisco also left a handwritten letter threatening to evict the Fishburnes and called police in recent days to try to get them to leave, the filings state.

Attempts to reach Francisco for comment were unsuccessful.

Fishburne and his wife, Gina Torres Fishburne, have owned their home for 10 years, his filing states.

"This is a case of stalking, and

the judge had no problem in issuing a temporary restraining order to stop it," Fishburne's attorney Donald Etra said.

Francisco has a 1993 conviction for burglary in San Diego, court records show.

The order temporary restraining order was granted Thursday.

A court hearing on a three-year restraining order is scheduled for Jan. 23.

Fishburne starred in "The Matrix" series and was nominated for a best actor Academy Award in 1993 for "What's Love Got to Do with It." His wife is an actress, appearing in "24" and other television series.



Fishburne

Oscar host Seth MacFarlane to announce nominations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For the first time in 40 years, the host of the Academy Awards will help announce the Oscar nominations.

Academy officials say Oscar host Seth MacFarlane will join actress Emma Stone to reveal the nominees for the 85th annual Academy Awards. This is the first time since 1972 that an Oscar host has partici-

pated in the nominations announcement. Charlton Heston was the only other show host to announce Oscar nominees.

MacFarlane and Stone will reveal the contenders Thursday morning from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' headquarters in California. The Academy Awards will be presented Feb. 24 in Los Angeles.



MacFarlane

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

'Snakes on a Plane' director David R. Ellis dies

David R. Ellis, the actor-turned-stuntman-turned-director of "Snakes on a Plane," has died. He was 60 years old. Ellis' manager, David Gardner, confirmed the director's death Monday and said Ellis' body was found in a hotel room in Johannesburg, South Africa. Ellis was in Johannesburg working on "Kite," a remake of the 1998 Japanese anime film that was to have starred "Snakes on a Plane" actor Samuel L. Jack-

son. Gardner declined to provide additional details, and no cause of death has been released. "So sad to hear of David R. Ellis passing!" Jackson tweeted on Monday. "So talented, so kind, such a Good Friend. He'll be missed. Gone too soon!" Ellis' directing credits include "Shark Night 3D," "The Final Destination," "Cellular" and "Final Destination 2." He also worked on such films as "Misery," "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" and "Waterworld." Ellis began his Hol-

lywood career as an actor in the 1970s before moving into stunts and directing. He is survived by his wife and three children. (AP)

Bette Midler set to return to a Broadway stage

NEW YORK (AP)—The Divine Miss M is returning to Broadway, and not as just a producer. Bette Midler will star in John Logan's new play "I'll Eat You Last: A Chat With Sue Mengers" in the spring, marking the first time the Grammy, Tony and Golden Globe

winner has been on Broadway in 30 years. The show opens April 24 at a Shubert theatre to be announced later. Midler will play the legendary Hollywood agent Sue Mengers in the one-character play by Logan, who won a Tony for "Red" and wrote the screenplay for the James Bond movie "Skyfall." Midler made her Broadway debut in the chorus of "Fiddler on the Roof" and won a Tony in "Clams on the Half Shell." She last produced the musical "Priscilla Queen of the Desert."

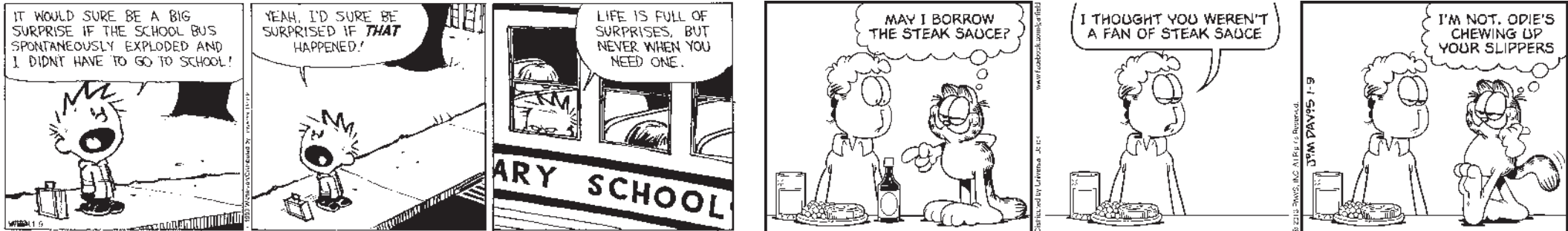
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

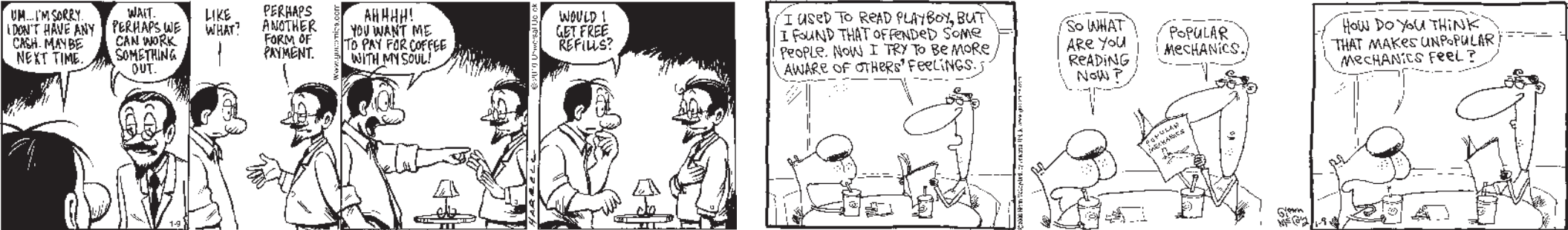


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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4 Insane
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challenge
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Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 1-9

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nina Dobrev, 24; Kate Middleton, 31; Dave Matthews, 46; Jimmy Page, 69.

Happy Birthday: Silence is golden. Keep your plans a secret until you are prepared to present and promote. It's your ability to be fully prepared and confident that will win you a place in the spotlight when you are good and ready. Refuse to let unpredictable people throw you off your game. Believe and invest in yourself and your talent. Your numbers are 9, 11, 24, 26, 37, 40, 43.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Accept a challenge that will alter the way you do things or where you reside. Focus on what will make you happy and how you can best serve your needs. A change in attitude will take anyone opposing you by surprise. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotional issues will surface with regard to love or your domestic situation. Go somewhere where you can think and consider your options. Sticking around home will lead to a force-play that you are best to avoid for the time being. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Being inquisitive is a good thing, but if you meddle in someone's affairs you will meet with opposition that will alter your personal position forever. Respond with caution. You are best to listen, but refrain from making judgments or suggestions. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Check your options and take the path that offers the coolest, most unusual direction possible. You will thrive on being unique or getting involved with creative people. Participate in programs, courses or activities that you find engaging. Love is in the stars. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Honesty will raise emotional questions, but in the end will relieve stress. Knowing your options will help you make changes necessary to improve your personal life. A chance to downsize or to sell unneeded possessions should be considered. ★★

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will have to ease your way in to whatever you want to pursue. Size up your situation and consider your options. Don't feel pressured to make a hasty decision if you are not sure what you want to do next. Do your research. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Sign up for courses or attend a conference that will keep you up to speed regarding the latest technology or research in your chosen field. Put love at the top of your list and socialize or make special plans for two. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Turn your interests into a financial solution. Invest in your skills and what you love to do. Check out what your community needs, utilize your talents to fit the demand and you will find your way to financial prosperity. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a creative, imaginative approach to whatever you pursue. Partnerships will be beneficial and can be initiated through networking functions you attend. Live in the moment personally and professionally and you will excel. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've got more leverage than you realize. Speak up, show how responsible you are, and you will be rewarded for your actions. Don't get angry when what's required is a cool, detached attitude and getting the job done. Love is highlighted. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Focus on what you can accomplish. Home and family will make a difference to the outcome of an endeavor you want to pursue. Trust in what and whom you know to make a difference in the outcome you are striving to reach. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get serious about what you can offer and follow through. What you present now will make a difference when you need a favor. A change in your personal or professional status is likely, and you should do your best to protect your reputation. ★★

Birthday Baby: You have courage, the ability to strategize, and concepts worth pursuing.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter/facebook/linkedin](https://twitter.com/eugenialast).

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FLAVORED TEAS Solution: 7 letters

E P G C E D M U G E L B B U B
G O E N I V R N A I D N I E C
N M F E O T O A V A C A R H N
A E E R H L O L H S H R E A I
R G M L U C O X C C I R E N K
O R M I O I Y O E E R V H A P
G A N U N T L S Y A O E N M
N N I R L T P U R L N N R A U
A A E O I P H R E E G I B B P
M T T S A T E N Y G R R A D E
L E H E N B T K I A A A L N B
W I N A E I I N F L Y D L O U
A I M U N W G A B L E D M J
P S L E I E S E N A P A J L U
O B S D R G R E E N I M S A J

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Almond, Banana, Berries, Blend, Blueberry, Bubble Gum, Chai, Cherry, Clove, Cream, Exotic, Fruit, Ginger, Ginseng, Green, Gray, Herbal, Honey, Indian, Japanese, Jasmine, Jujube, Kiwi, Lime, Lychee, Mandarin, Mango, Melon, Mint, Oolong, Orange, Orchard, Osmanthus, Pineapple, Plum, Pomegranate, Pumpkin, Rose, Safari, Scottish, Sweet, Valentines, Wild

Yesterday's Answer: Drawer

The NEW Treasury Word Search puzzle books are now available in paperback and hardcover. For more information, visit www.treasurywordsearch.com. US Income Taxes: \$20.00 (US only), \$25.00 (Canada), \$30.00 (UK), \$35.00 (Australia), \$40.00 (New Zealand), \$45.00 (South Africa), \$50.00 (India), \$55.00 (Japan), \$60.00 (Korea), \$65.00 (Taiwan), \$70.00 (Thailand), \$75.00 (Vietnam), \$80.00 (Hong Kong), \$85.00 (Singapore), \$90.00 (Malaysia), \$95.00 (Indonesia), \$100.00 (Philippines), \$105.00 (Vietnam), \$110.00 (Thailand), \$115.00 (Malaysia), \$120.00 (Indonesia), \$125.00 (Philippines), \$130.00 (Vietnam), \$135.00 (Thailand), \$140.00 (Malaysia), \$145.00 (Indonesia), \$150.00 (Philippines), \$155.00 (Vietnam), \$160.00 (Thailand), \$165.00 (Malaysia), \$170.00 (Indonesia), \$175.00 (Philippines), \$180.00 (Vietnam), \$185.00 (Thailand), \$190.00 (Malaysia), \$195.00 (Indonesia), \$200.00 (Philippines), \$205.00 (Vietnam), \$210.00 (Thailand), \$215.00 (Malaysia), \$220.00 (Indonesia), \$225.00 (Philippines), \$230.00 (Vietnam), \$235.00 (Thailand), \$240.00 (Malaysia), \$245.00 (Indonesia), \$250.00 (Philippines), 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Mail resume to KDC PMB 1175 Box 10001 Saipan

Tropical Blendz is looking for...

Server/Cashier

• must have good social skills and be health conscious

• with experience

please bring resume to Tropical Blendz # 233-8809

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ACCOUNTANT (1) – Must have a Bachelor's degree in Accounting with a minimum of 5 years work related experience, proficient in MS Word, excel, Peachtree and QuickBooks, knowledge of General Accounting and aviation industry, maintain book of accounts, knows how to prepare Financial Statements, Bank Reconciliation, Bookkeeping, Year End reports, Revenue requirements, Accounts receivables and payables, payroll, withholding tax, FICA, BGRT, excise tax and other work assigned; drop and pick up of customers, booking of charter flights, medical evacuation preparation and directly report to the President. Rate: \$5.55 to \$ 7.50/hr.

GENERAL MECHANIC (1) – Minimum of 5 years professional experience as general mechanic, repairs and maintains physical structures of the facility, repairs of vehicles, office machines and equipments, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, air condition, and all other equipments of the company. Rate: \$5.55 to \$ 7.50/hr.

Interested applicants can mail their resume at P.O. Box 7688 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950 or may email to saipan@americopters.com. No phone calls please.

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Tropical Blendz

(1) Cook/Helper

Salary \$5.55/hr

Must have some cooking experience

Bring your resume to Tropical Blendz Tel No. 233-8809

Job Vacancy Announcement

(13) HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC - \$5.60 to \$8.00 per hour. Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic. With knowledge how to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul mobile mechanic, hydraulic, and pneumatic equipment, such as cranes, bulldozers, graders, excavators, trucks, profilers and conveyors, used in construction. Must be able to work flexible time.

(2) PAINTER - \$5.75 to \$6.00 per hour. Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as a Painter. With knowledge how to paint walls, equipment, buildings, bridges, and other structural surfaces, using brushes, rollers, and spray guns. May remove old paint to prepare surface prior to painting. May mix colors or oils to obtain desired color or consistency. Must be able to work flexible time.

(1) HOUSEKEEPER - \$5.55 to \$6.00 per hour. Must be a high school graduate or minimum of 5 years experience as a maid. Perform any combination of light cleaning duties to maintain private households or commercial establishments, in a clean and orderly manner. Duties may include making beds, replenishing linens, cleaning rooms and halls, and vacuuming. Must be able to work flexible time.

(4) ARCHITECTURAL AND CIVIL DRAFTER - \$6.00 to \$9.00 per hour. Must be a college graduate with minimum experience of 5 years. Must know how to prepare detailed drawings of architectural and structural features of buildings or drawings and topographical relief maps used in civil engineering projects such as highways, bridges, and public works. Use knowledge of building materials, engineering practices, and mathematics to complete drawings. Must be able to work flexible time.

(2) GENERAL MAINTENANCE - \$5.65 TO \$6.00 per hour. Must be high school graduate with minimum of 5 years experience as General Maintenance. With experience which demonstrates ability to perform carpentry, plumbing, painting, masonry, electrical wirings, grounds keeping, and standard practices and use of variety of hand and power tools used in the maintenance and repair of building facilities.

(4) AUTO BODY REPAIRER - \$5.60 to \$6.00 per hour. Must be a high school graduate with minimum 5 years experience as Auto Body Repairer. With knowledge how to repair and refinish automotive vehicle bodies and straighten vehicle frames. Must be knowledgeable on how to perform Arc and Gas welding. Must be able to work flexible time.

All positions close on January 10, 2013. Applications are available at GPPC Inc office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of valid Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required. GPPC, INC. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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REQUIREMENTS/QUALIFICATIONS:

- Post-secondary education, BS Degree or, equivalent amount of education and work experience

- Excellent customer service skills

- Excellent working knowledge of computer equipment and operations: Microsoft -- Windows Server Environment includes: Windows 2003 Server, Windows 2008 Server and Windows 2012 Server. CISCO Networking Devices using basic Protocol such as VPN, ASA and other secured and Layer III.

- Must possess Microsoft Certification, Electronics Technician Certification and A+ Certification Professional.

- Must be able to Design and Install Enterprise Data and Communication using copper and fiber optic, Certification is required.

- Must be able to design and install Wireless Network, either indoor or outdoor application, Certification is required.

- Must be able to implement Electronic Security Network, Certification is required

- Must be able to design and install CCTV

- Excellent interpersonal and writing skills.

- Ability to work independently and in a team environment

- Ability to work under time pressures while maintaining a good working attitude

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Celtics beat Knicks in first matchup of the season



NEW YORK (AP)—Carmelo Anthony and Kevin Garnett jawed from baseline to midcourt, and Anthony still had more to say.

So the Knicks forward went toward the Celtics locker room after the game to keep shouting, taking his frustrations from the court right along with him and perhaps risking an NBA suspension.

Paul Pierce scored 23 points, and Boston beat New York 102-96 on Monday night in a heated first meeting of the season between the Atlantic Division rivals.

Anthony left without talking to reporters and the Knicks wouldn't comment on Anthony's post game trip in the wrong direction, but Celtics coach Doc Rivers didn't deny it.

"I'm going to let you all figure that one out. I'm going to stay out of that," Rivers said. "If it was the playoffs I'd tell on him, but since it's not I'm going to just be quiet."

Rivers didn't need to. MSG Network reported the incident, in which security had to step in and send Anthony back in the right direction, as it went to its post game show, and the league likely will investigate and could penalize the Knicks' leading scorer.

Comcast SportsNet New England posted a video on its website showing Anthony waiting near the Celtics' team bus after the game, with coach Mike Woodson and New York City police nearby.

"I didn't know what was going on at that point in time," Knicks forward Amare Stoudemire said. "It's strictly basketball. We have to keep it on the basketball court and make sure we come to play every night. Boston will definitely bring the intensity and aggressive play. We got to be able to match that."

Garnett added 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Celtics, who even without the suspended Rajon Rondo won their third straight and finally are playing like the team that has ruled the division for the last half-decade.

The Knicks want that title now, but Anthony and his teammates were reminded how tough the Celtics can make it.

Anthony had 20 points but shot 6 of 26 while battling his temper, Garnett and foul trouble.

Garnett denied the post game altercation.

"Listen, heat of the battle, man. Guys go back and forth. He's trying to get his team to go, I'm trying to get my team to go, both teams are colliding, not to mention that it's the Knicks and the Celtics," Garnett said. "Just what it is, man."

J.R. Smith led the Knicks with 24 points. Tyson Chandler had 13 points and 17 rebounds.

Rondo was suspended Monday for making contact with a referee in a game against Atlanta on Saturday and failure to cooperate with an NBA investigation. Without the NBA's assist



Boston Celtics forward Paul Pierce (34) reacts as New York Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony, rear, defends in the second half of their NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, Monday, Jan. 7, 2013.

leader, the Celtics relied on the kind of defense that has been absent too often this season.

They allowed 78 points per game in their last two wins, then held the Knicks to 40 in the second half Monday.

Pierce, who was also in foul trouble in the tightly and sometimes inconsistently called game, put it away with a jumper with 45 seconds to go, blowing a kiss toward the crowd he loves to torment after putting the Celtics up by six.

Anthony had averaged 34.4 points in his last 10 games and had a pair of 40-point performances last week, but his jumper was off from the start Monday as the Knicks had their two-game winning streak snapped.

"They took us out of a lot that we wanted to accomplish out there," said Chandler, who said "nothing" happened after the game.

"Very physical on the ball," he said. "Forced us to take some tough shots."

Boston led by four when Anthony and Garnett became extra physical with each other on a Boston possession that ended with a turnover with 9:03 remaining. Anthony followed him all the way to midcourt as they jawed at each other following the play, leading to technical fouls on both players.

The trash talk didn't just stay on the court—or between players. Pierce tried to throw the ball in from the sideline shortly after, only to have Spike Lee standing and yelling in his ear the whole time.

"I've been tuning Spike Lee out for years," Pierce said. "That's just common noise now."

Jason Kidd's 3-pointer tied it at 86, but Pierce dunked and Avery Bradley made a jumper for a four-point lead with 5:32 to play. The Knicks got it to one before Pierce's jumper with 3 1/2 minutes to play, and the Knicks never got that close again.

The Celtics have won the last five Atlantic Division titles, starting with their NBA championship season of 2007-08. But while Rivers often says he never talks to the players about winning the division, Woodson has made it a priority since becoming interim coach last March.

They couldn't catch Boston last season but had opened a 4 1/2-game lead over Brooklyn and were seven games up on the third-place Celtics entering Monday's play.

"Our goal is bigger and so are the Knicks', I'm sure, but maybe that's part of their goal and that's their first step," Rivers said of the division title. "But our goal is always bigger than that."

They've only recently begun to play like that could attain it.

Wizards 101, Thunder 99

In Washington, Bradley Beal made a jumper with 0.3 seconds left after using a pump fake to get open, and the short-handed Wizards beat the Thunder.

Kevin Durant led Oklahoma City (26-8) with 29 points.

The Wizards (5-28), playing without their top two scorers, had lost 13 of their previous 14, but they also beat the Miami Heat earlier in the season. Beal and Martell Webster led the Washington with 22 points each.

Kevin Seraphin added 19 points, and Emeka Okafor had 12 points and 12 rebounds.

The Thunder missed 16 straight shots from midway through the third quarter to midway through the fourth quarter.

Hornets 95, Spurs 88

In New Orleans, Eric Gordon scored six straight points in a fourth quarter spurt and had 24 overall to lead the Hornets to a victory over San Antonio.

Anthony Davis added 17 points, Greivis Vasquez 14 and Ryan Anderson 13 for the Hornets, who have won two consecutive games for the first time since Nov. 2-3.

Manu Ginobili scored 21 points to lead the Spurs, who had won eight of their previous nine, dating to a 99-94 victory over the Hornets in San Antonio on Dec. 21.

Tony Parker had 16 points, Tim Duncan 13 and Kawhi Leonard 10 for San Antonio. Duncan was 5 of 14, at one point missing five consecutive shots in the third quarter.

The Spurs committed 19 turnovers, leading to 23 points for New Orleans.

Jazz 100, Mavericks 94

In Salt Lake City, Gordon Hayward scored a season-high 27 points, including four 3-pointers, and the Jazz defeated the Mavericks.

Alec Burks added a season-high 13, including eight in the fourth quarter when Utah held Dallas (13-22) to 14 points on 5-of-16 shooting.

Dirk Nowitzki led the Mavs with 20 points. He had six straight late, but also was called for a charge with 32 seconds remaining as he tried to get Dallas

within two.

The Jazz made 4 of 6 free throws down the stretch to seal the win.

Al Jefferson added 15 points and 11 rebounds for Utah (18-18), which has won both meetings with Dallas this season.

The Mavs (13-22) have lost three straight and 12 of their last 14.

Grizzlies 113, Kings 81

In Sacramento, Calif., Wayne Ellington scored a season-high 26 points, hitting six 3-pointers, to help the Grizzlies rout the Kings.

Zach Randolph scored 17 points and had seven rebounds for Memphis. Mike Conley had 15 points and eight assists and Marc Gasol had 13 points for the Grizzlies, who outscored the Kings 36-20 in the third quarter to blow the game open.

John Salmons led the Kings with 17 points, Jason Thompson had 12 and DeMarcus Cousins had 10 and eight rebounds.

Tyreke Evans returned to the Kings after missing the previous 11 games with a sore left knee. He had five points in 12 minutes.

Besides playing well offensively, the Grizzlies did a nice job of containing Cousins. In the previous four games, Cousins had averaged 24.5 points and 15.2 rebounds.

Trail Blazers 125, Magic 119, OT

In Portland, Ore., LaMarcus Aldridge had 27 points and 10 rebounds, and the Blazers handed the Magic their ninth straight loss.

Wesley Matthews finished with 24 points, including a dunk that all but sealed it with less than a minute to go in overtime, and J.J. Hickson added 20 points and 15 rebounds for his 20th double-double this season.

Portland has won three straight and 11 of its last 14 games.

Aldridge hit a layup and a free throw that put Portland ahead 112-108 with 3:38 in overtime. After the Magic tied it at 112 on J.J. Redick's hook shot, Blazers rookie Damian Lillard made a pull-up jumper to reclaim the lead.

Redick led the Magic with 29 points, while Arron Afflalo had 24. Nikola Vucevic had 17 points and 13 rebounds.

Source: Scott Skiles out as Bucks coach

Head coach Scott Skiles and the Milwaukee Bucks have decided to part ways after just over four seasons together, ending a working relationship that seemed to have been teetering on the brink for quite some time.

The decision came Monday night, a person with knowledge of the move told The Associated Press, two days after the Bucks lost their fourth straight game to fall to 16-16 on the season. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the move has not been

announced. USA Today first reported the parting.

Skiles was 162-182 and in his fifth season with Milwaukee. He led the Bucks to one playoff appearance, a first-round loss to Atlanta in seven games during the 2009-10 season.

At first glance, the timing of the move might seem curious. Even after their latest loss, the Bucks were still in seventh place in the Eastern Conference playoff chase. But the hard-nosed, defensive-minded coach sometimes had difficulty

meshing with a roster built around volume shooters Brandon Jennings and Monta Ellis, and it appeared to finally reach the breaking point after a 95-80 loss to the Pacers in Indiana on Saturday night.

This season the Bucks started out a surprising 6-2, only to lose seven of their next nine. They followed that with a four-game winning streak, the kind of wild swings that didn't sit well with a coach who values consistency—both in play and preparation.

ACL in question as Redskins' RG3 has more tests



ASHBURN, Va. (AP)—It doesn't sound good for Robert Griffin III.

An injury that sidelines RG3 well into next season is a very real possibility—or at least it seemed that way Monday after coach Mike Shanahan described the results of tests on the rookie's right knee.

Shanahan said the results are prompting the team to send Griffin to Florida on Tuesday to see renowned orthopedist James Andrews for more examinations, essentially a second opinion that will decide the team's fate for the 2013 season.

"There is a concern," Shanahan said. "That's why he's going to see him."

Griffin tore his ACL while playing for Baylor in 2009, and Shanahan said that old injury caused Griffin's latest MRI to prove inconclusive and produce "differences of opinion" in those who have looked at it.

"They want to take another look and have a physical exam with him," Shanahan said, "to make sure they're not looking at old injuries."

A torn ACL typically requires a rehabilitation period of nine to 12 months, although some players don't return to full health until their second season after the injury. On the other hand, one of this season's most remarkable stories was Adrian Peterson, who returned about eight months after tearing an ACL and nearly broke the NFL's single-season rushing record.

Notably, Shanahan referenced Peterson on Monday, pointing out that the Minnesota Vikings back had the big season without the benefit of an offseason practice program. It could be a possible scenario for Griffin.

Shanahan was grilled about his handling of Griffin's injury. Already playing with a heavy black brace in his third game since spraining a lateral collateral ligament, Griffin hurt the knee again when he fell awkwardly while throwing a pass in the first quarter of Sunday's 24-14 playoff loss to the Seattle Seahawks.

Griffin stayed in the game, but he was far from his usual self, clearly favoring the knee and unable to run with the world-class speed that helped define his play early in the season.

Then, in the fourth quarter with the Redskins trailing by seven, the knee buckled the wrong way when Griffin tried to field a bad shotgun snap. The Seahawks recovered the fumble deep in Washington territory, setting up a short field goal that helped put the game out of reach. Griffin was done for the evening.

Shanahan said he thought he made the "right decisions" to keep Griffin in the game and that it would be "crazy" to think he would purposely sacrifice



Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III sits on the bench after a knee injury during an NFL wild card playoff football game against the Seattle Seahawks in Landover, Md., Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013. AP

Griffin's career to win a game. He said he did not talk to team doctors initially after Griffin was hurt in the first quarter, instead relying on Griffin's word.

"I went up to Robert. I said, 'You OK?'" Shanahan said. "And he said, 'I'm fine.'"

Griffin was also feeling the criticism for not taking himself out. He did not appear in the locker room during the two hours it was open to reporters Monday morning and instead made his public statements via

Twitter.

"Many may question, criticize & think they have all the right answers. But few have been in the line of fire in battle. ... I thank God for perspective and because of that I appreciate the support from everyone. I also appreciate the criticism. ... When adversity strikes you respond in one of two ways.... You step aside and give in... Or you step up and fight," Griffin tweeted.

Teammates defended Griffin's desire to play hurt, saying it's part of an athlete's competitive nature.

"It's a slippery slope, I guess you can say, because you want to help the team," said receiver Pierre Garcon, who faced a similar dilemma this season while dealing with a painful toe injury.

"But you want to help yourself in the long run and your career. 'You want to look out for all sides, but it's hard to really know exactly if you're doing the right thing because if you sit

out and the team losses, it's like 'I could probably have helped.' If you go out there and don't help the team, it's like, 'I probably should've sat out.' You've just got to make a decision and live with it."

Shanahan's take on Griffin was also muddled by details that have emerged from the game in which the quarterback originally hurt the knee last month against the Baltimore Ravens.

The coach said at the time he was told by Andrews on the

Redskins sideline that Griffin was cleared to return to the game, but Andrews told USA Today over the weekend that he didn't get a chance to examine the knee during the one play Griffin sat out after the initial injury.

Shanahan explained the apparent discrepancy.

"I don't sit down with him and say, 'Hey, did you give him a proper evaluation?'" Shanahan said. "I ask him, 'Is it OK if he goes back in the game?' He says yes or no. He said yes."

Either way, the various versions of what happened cast more intrigue on the protocol NFL teams use to determine whether someone is fit to keep playing. Redskins left guard Kory Lichtensteiger had to leave Sunday's game in the first quarter because he could no longer play on a sprained left ankle that kept him out of practice all week.

"I went out there," Lichtensteiger said. "But, in hindsight, I probably shouldn't have done it."

Griffin's injury and the play-off loss put a damper on the end of one of the best Redskins seasons in two decades. Washington rallied from a 3-6 start to win the NFC East after four straight last-place finishes. Assuming Griffin's knee will again be fully healthy, the future looks brighter than at any time since the Super Bowl era under coach Joe Gibbs in the 1980s and early 1990s.

"I think people have really learned around here—if you're down by seven, people aren't packing it in," said safety Reed Doughty, wrapping up his seventh season in Washington. "People aren't getting that 'Oh, the way things used to be' kind of feeling."

NHL says 48-game regular season is 'most likely'

By **LARRY LAGE**
AP HOCKEY WRITER



The NHL appears headed toward a 48-game season for the second time in two decades.

"I think 48 is most likely at this point, unless the players can expedite their ratification process," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly wrote in an email Monday to The Associated Press.

The NHL shortened its 82-game slate to 48 games for the 1994-95 season after a 103-day lockout. A 301-day lockout in 2004-05 made the NHL the first major North American professional sports league to lose an entire season.

When the framework of a new collective bargaining agreement was agreed to Sunday morning—after 16 hours of negotiations—there was some talk of having a 50-game sea-

son start later this month.

The NHL and the players' association are working on a memorandum of understanding, which could be completed soon, then voted on by owners and players. The league has circulated a memo to teams telling them to be ready to play by Jan. 19, the date the shortened season is expected to start.

"As we prepare for the season opener, I want to apologize to all Blues fans, especially our season ticket holders, suite holders, and sponsors," St. Louis Blues owner Tom Stillman said in a statement released by the team. "We share in your disappointment and frustration about the lockout."

Los Angeles Kings forward Kevin Westgarth, who was part of the union negotiating team for much of the long work stoppage, expects the NHLPA to conduct a conference call to explain and answer questions about the new CBA before

players vote on it online.

"Of course the league will say if the players hurry up, we can play more games, but there's a reality to consider as well," Westgarth said in a telephone interview Monday from Raleigh, N.C., where he skated informally with some Carolina Hurricanes. "But the first step is for the people who are good with words to get on paper what both sides agreed to."

"Then, we have to get guys—who are scattered all over the world—to understand the agreement before we can start voting."

Some NHL players—including Washington Capitals star Alex Ovechkin—went overseas during the lockout. Ovechkin, who played for his hometown Dynamo Moscow in the Kontinental Hockey League, was welcomed back to Washington by the Capitals, who posted a picture of him on their Twitter account arriving at a lo-

cal airport.

Players—teammates and opponents—who stayed in North America have been getting together for months to skate, conduct on-ice drills and work out on their own to stay in relatively good shape.

Penguins star Sidney Crosby and nearly a dozen teammates worked out at a suburban Pittsburgh ice rink Monday.

For a change, Crosby and the rest of the NHL players knew games will be played after negotiators for both sides—and an outside mediator—found a way to revive a sport desperate to regain momentum and boost its prominence.

The league and the union agreed to the framework of a 10-year labor contract, ending a bitter dispute that wiped out a large part of the hockey season for the third time in less than two decades. On the 113th day of the lockout and five days before the league's deadline for a

deal, the bleary-eyed sides held a 6 a.m. Sunday news conference to announce there would be a season after all.

The lockout could wipe out perhaps \$1 billion in revenue this season because about 40 percent of the regular-season schedule won't be played.

The NHL's revenue of \$3.3 billion last season lagged well behind the NFL (\$9 billion), Major League Baseball (\$7.5 billion) and the NBA (\$5 billion). The new deal will lower the players' percentage from 57 to 50 after owners originally had proposed the players get 46 percent.

This was the third lockout among the major U.S. sports in a period of just over a year. A four-month NFL lockout ended in July 2011 with the loss of only one exhibition game, and an NBA lockout caused each team's schedule to be cut from 82 games to 66 last season.

BAMA

From Page 28

nation’s most storied programs reduced to nothing more than the second straight BCS blow-out for the Crimson Tide.

“We’ve had a lot of really great football players who’ve worked really hard,” Saban said. “Because we’ve had a great team, we’ve been able to have a significant amount of success.”

Alabama (13-1) scored 69 straight points against its title game opponents, going back to getting the final 13 against Texas in 2010, followed by a stifling 21-0 victory over LSU for last year’s crown, then scoring the first 35 points on Notre Dame. Saban’s team made the Irish (12-1) look like a squad that would be hard-pressed to finish in the middle of the pack in the mighty Southeastern Conference, which has now won seven straight national championships.

The Crimson Tide will likely wrap up its ninth Associated Press national title, breaking a tie with Notre Dame for the most by any school and gaining a measure of redemption for a bitter loss to the Irish almost four decades ago: the epic Sugar Bowl in which Ara Parseghian’s team edged Bear Bryant’s powerhouse 24-23.

Bryant won five AP titles during his brilliant career. The way things are going, Saban might just chase him down.

The diminutive man with

the perpetual scowl has guided Alabama to the top spot in the rankings three times since arriving in Tuscaloosa in 2007, and if he’s serious about finishing his career with the job he has, there seems no reason he can’t win a few more before he’s done with “The Process.”

Already, Saban is the first coach in the BCS era to win national titles at different schools, capturing his first at LSU during the 2003 season. Now, he’s the first coach with back-to-back BCS titles, and given the youthfulness of his team, Alabama figures to go into next season as a heavy favorite.

In an interesting twist, Saban’s fourth college title came in the stadium where he had the only stumble of his coaching career, a two-year tenure with the NFL’s Miami Dolphins that ended ugly, with the coach insisting he wasn’t planning to leave—then bolting for Alabama just two weeks later. His tactics may have been underhanded, but it’s hard to argue with the call he made.

Before a record Sun Life Stadium crowd of 80,120 that definitely included more green than crimson, Lacy ran right through the Irish and their Heisman Trophy finalist Manti Te’o on a 20-yard touchdown run before the game was 3 minutes old, capping an 82-yard drive that was longest of the season given up by the Fighting Irish.

It would only get worse. Alabama marched right down the field on its second possession, this one a 10-play, 61-yard

pounding that finished with McCarron completely faking out the defense and lofting a 3-yard touchdown pass to Michael Williams, standing all alone in the back of the end zone.

On the first play of the second quarter, T.J. Yeldon powered over from the 1 to make it 21-0, the finish to another impressive drive—this one covering 80 yards—that included two long completions by McCarron. First, he went to Kevin Norwood on a 25-yard gain. Then, he hooked up with freshman Amari Cooper for a 27-yard gain to the Notre Dame 6.

By that point, it was clear to everyone that Notre Dame’s hopes of winning its first national championship since 1988 were all done. But Alabama just poured it on.

Lacy’s 11-yard touchdown reception with 31 seconds left in the half left the Irish fans shaking the heads in disbelief, while the Alabama faithful broke out that familiar “SEC! SEC! SEC!” chant, as if to let Notre Dame know that it may have turned things around under third-year coach Brian Kelly, but isn’t yet ready to compete with one of the Southern powerhouses.

Alabama made it 35-0 on McCarron’s second TD pass of the night, a 34-yarder to Cooper without a Notre Dame defender in sight.

The Irish finally scored late in the third quarter, a 2-yard run by Everett Golson that served no other purpose except to end Alabama’s remarkable scoreless streak in the BCS title games,

which stretched to 108 minute and 7 seconds—the equivalent of nearly two full games—before the Notre Dame quarterback fought his way into the end zone.

Good thing a four-team playoff is coming with the 2014 season.

Alabama and the SEC have come to dominate this system. Florida began the unprecedented streak in the 2006 season, and added another crown two years later. LSU and Auburn have also won titles during the run. But Alabama is the top dog these days.

The only BCS title game that was more of a blowout was USC’s 55-19 victory over Oklahoma in the 2005 Orange Bowl, a title that was later vacated because of NCAA violations.

About the only time Alabama stumbled was when McCarron had a miscommunication with his All-American center, Barrett Jones, in the closing seconds. The fiery McCarron shouted at Jones, who just shoved him away. But as the seconds ticked off, they were right on the same page, hugging Saban and celebrating another title.

Notre Dame made tremendous strides under Kelly, going from unranked in the preseason to the top spot in the rankings by the end of the regular season. But that long-awaited championship will have to wait at least one more years. Golson completed his first season as the starter by going 21 of 36 for 270 yards, with a touchdown and an interception. But he got no help from the running game, which

was held to 32 yards - 170 below their season average.

Kelly had vowed this was only beginning, insisting the bar

has been raised in South Bend no matter what the outcome.

No one sets its higher than the folks in Tuscaloosa.

NOTRE DAME

From Page 28

ing a joke at his own expense in a televised halftime interview.

“All Alabama,” Kelly said at the time. “I mean, we can’t tackle them right now. And who knows why? They’re big and physical—I guess I do know why.”

Anyone who was watching knew why.

The lowlights were stacked high by the time this game was over. Te’o missed a couple of tackles early, something he hardly ever did this season. By halftime, when it was 28-0, the Irish had already given up more points than they had in any game this season, the previous high being 26 in a triple-overtime win over Pittsburgh. The most yards Notre Dame gave up this season was 379; Alabama cracked the 500 mark early in the fourth quarter.

Maybe the play that will be most replayed of all was the one where Eddie Lacy essentially tackled Danny Spond.

The significance?

Well, Lacy was the Alabama ballcarrier at the time, holding the football with one arm and sending Spond—one of Notre Dame’s top linebackers—sprawling with the other as he rumbled past for an extra yard or two.

Bigger, stronger, faster. By night’s end, it couldn’t be ar-

gued that the Crimson Tide held all those titles.

It’s why Alabama will fly home Tuesday with its third national title trophy from the last four seasons, no longer a budding dynasty—but an established one.

Notre Dame arrived at the title game on the cusp of what would have been a fantasy scenario, that of being unranked at the start of the season and the undisputed champions at the end of the campaign.

After one play, it looked as if it might happen when Lacy was stopped after a 1-yard gain, wrapped up just over the line of scrimmage.

One play later, Alabama quarterback AJ McCarron connected with Kevin Norwood for 29 yards, placing a pass between two Notre Dame defenders.

Such was the theme the rest of the night. Even when Notre Dame had its moments, they didn’t last long. Lacy ran in from 20 yards to cap that first Alabama drive, the Tide stretched the lead to 21-0 after one play of the second quarter, and the outcome was never in doubt.

Some of the lower-bowl seats at Sun Life were being resold for as much as \$10,000 in the days before the game. The majority of those seats were empty long before the finish, those fans for whatever reason deciding they didn’t need to see yet another Alabama coronation.

SABAN

From Page 28

of his predecessors at Alabama.

“I’m satisfied with this team because of what they accomplished,” Saban said afterward.

But he has a rule that celebrations are cut short after 48 hours—and despite the biggest of wins—a rule is a rule.

“Two days from now,” Saban said without a hint of humor, “we got to start on next year.”

The weekend before the championship, more than a few people wondered whether Saban might finally open up, the way Urban Meyer did while still coaching at Florida a while back, the way some of his peers have when their legacy, like Saban’s, was secured. Saban did—just not the way most expected.

He began with a story about inheriting his uncompromising work ethic from a father that he and everyone else in their tucked-away corner of West Virginia always called “Big Nick.”

“There was a bum that used to come to my dad’s service station early in the morning because he’d give him free coffee and doughnuts,” Saban said. “We had had a tough game the night before, I don’t remember whether it was basketball game, a football game or whatever. The guy was giving me a hard time and I sort of sassed him. I

was 17 years old. I got the strap right on the spot.

“It was the right thing,” he added quickly. “I needed to learn a lesson. I was disrespectful to an older person, regardless of the situation.”

Saban rarely comes off as a man who speaks from the heart. More often, he sounds like someone cobbling together bits and pieces culled from a shelf’s worth of books on motivational speaking, which Saban, not surprisingly, has turned into a lucrative sideline. Maybe that’s what made that story he told about his father seem even more revealing when the subject came up a day later.

This time, the lesson was not about respect, but about always striving for “a standard of excellence, a perfection.” Saban recalled being 11 years old, already working at that same service station by then. His responsibilities ran the gamut from pumping gas and collecting the cash to checking the oil and tires, and finally, washing the cars.

“I hated the navy blue and black cars, because when you wiped them off, the streaks were hard to get out. And if there were any streaks when he came,” Saban paused, referring to “Big Nick” again, “you had to do it over.”

Sports is not the only place where the father-son dynamic ignites a spark of ambition that

grows and grows until it becomes a consuming flame. And there are men like Saban atop every profession. They clamber up the ladder without regard for consequences, treating each job like an audition for the next one. His story is instructive that way.

Saban played defensive back at Kent State, despite standing only 5-foot-6, and the determination he showed won him a job as a graduate assistant there in 1972. Next came a half-dozen more stops as an assistant—including a season with the NFL’s Houston Oilers—before Saban landed his first head-coaching job at Toledo in 1990. He brought the school a Mid-American Conference title in his only season there, bailing out to become defensive coordinator with the NFL’s Cleveland Browns under then-coach Bill Belichick.

In the ensuing 15 years, Saban burned through three more jobs, each one good enough to be considered a “destination” among his peers—first Michigan State, then LSU, where he won his first national title, and finally with the Miami Dolphins. Instead of feeling like he’d arrived, Saban remained restless in a way the rest of us are not. After two years, including his first losing season as a head coach, he flat-out denied he was leaving for the vacant job at Alabama—and then lit out for Tuscaloosa


three weeks later.

That was 2007, and Saban is still there six seasons later, longer than his tenure lasted anywhere else. He’s been so successful he not only owns the town and the state; he’s even won over the fans and alumni who used to insist no coach deserved the Crimson Tide job without a connection to Bryant. Some of the most stubborn have made that connection themselves now, mentioning Saban in the same sentence with Bryant, and adding the “D-word (dynasty)” at the end that was once reserved for Bryant as well.

For his part, Saban has sunk roots in Tuscaloosa, even relocating the “Nick’s Kids Fund” charity he and wife Terry set up more than a decade ago. It’s actually named for “Big Nick,” the blue-collar taskmaster and former Pop Warner League coach who taught his son never to take on a job unless he intended to do it right.

Judged by winning percentage, he’s certainly done right by nearly every team that hired him. The only remorse he feels is not having figured it out in time to tell “Big Nick” thanks.

“Probably when I was a senior in college, that’s probably when I realized it. And my first year of graduate school was when he passed away. I never really ever told him,” Saban said, “which I regret.”



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	23	11	.676	—
Brooklyn	19	15	.559	4
Boston	17	17	.500	6
Philadelphia	15	20	.429	8½
Toronto	12	22	.353	11

Southeast Division

Miami	23	9	.719	—
Atlanta	20	12	.625	3
Orlando	12	22	.353	12
Charlotte	9	24	.273	14½
Washington	5	28	.152	18½

Central Division

Chicago	19	13	.594	—
Indiana	20	14	.588	—
Milwaukee	16	16	.500	3
Detroit	13	23	.361	8
Cleveland	8	28	.222	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	27	10	.730	—
Memphis	22	10	.688	2½
Houston	20	14	.588	5½
Dallas	13	22	.371	13
New Orleans	9	25	.265	16½

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	26	8	.765	—
Portland	19	15	.559	7
Denver	20	16	.556	7
Utah	18	18	.500	9
Minnesota	15	15	.500	9

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	27	8	.771	—
Golden State	22	11	.667	4
L.A. Lakers	15	18	.455	11
Sacramento	13	22	.371	14
Phoenix	12	23	.343	15

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	33	349	238	1006	30.5
Anthony, NYK	27	272	175	792	29.3
Durant, OKC	33	302	269	929	28.2
James, MIA	32	323	158	848	26.5
Harden, HOU	33	257	292	872	26.4

Westbrook, OKC

33	253	168	722	21.9	
Wade, MIA	28	217	129	572	20.4
Aldridge, POR	31	256	120	632	20.4
Curry, GOL	33	230	103	662	20.1
Lee, GOL	33	272	112	656	19.9
Pierce, BOS	33	216	157	654	19.8
Ellis, MIL	32	231	131	621	19.4
Parker, SAN	34	257	120	651	19.1
Mayo, DAL	34	223	102	627	18.4
Holiday, PHL	31	229	78	570	18.4
Lillard, POR	33	211	106	602	18.2
Gay, MEM	30	208	96	543	18.1
DeRozan, TOR	34	228	141	614	18.1
Walker, CHA	33	219	115	591	17.9
Bosh, MIA	31	209	128	553	17.8

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Chandler, NYK	157	226	.695
Jordan, LAC	139	230	.604
McGee, DEN	161	280	.575
Howard, LAL	201	353	.569
Ibaka, OKC	199	352	.565
Lopez, NOR	164	295	.556
Bosh, MIA	209	381	.549
Hickson, POR	164	300	.547
James, MIA	323	593	.545
Horford, ATL	218	407	.536

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Varejao, CLE	25	138	223	361	14.4
Howard, LAL	33	122	288	410	12.4
Randolph, MEM	30	134	232	366	12.2
Asik, HOU	34	104	284	388	11.4
Lee, GOL	33	99	260	359	10.9
Hickson, POR	32	128	219	347	10.8
Vucevic, ORL	33	110	244	354	10.7
Noah, CHI	30	108	204	312	10.4
Chandler, NYK	33	142	198	340	10.3
Fariel, DEN	36	142	215	357	9.9

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Rondo, BOS	29	329	11.3
Paul, LAC	35	326	9.3
Vasquez, NOR	33	297	9.0
Holiday, PHL	31	277	8.9
Westbrook, OKC	33	282	8.5
Williams, Bro	33	256	7.8
Calderon, TOR	34	263	7.7
Parker, SAN	34	248	7.3
James, MIA	32	221	6.9
Nelson, ORL	24	163	6.8

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ackerman makes finals of Aussie tourney

Tammy Ackerman barged into the finals of the consolation draw of the girls U14 singles event in the 2013 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup.

The CNMI junior player defeated Maddison Stark, 8-3, yesterday morning at the Albury Grasscourts in Albury, New South Wales, Australia to book the finals berth in the top half of the consolation bracket.

The victory was Ackerman's fourth in a row after dropping her opening game against No. 7 seed Beatrice Hetrel last Sunday morning in the main draw. The Commonwealth bet first won over Bronte Argent last Sunday afternoon, 8-2, and then defeated Amanda Laurent, 8-4, and Annabel Jaskiewicz, last Monday to make it to the Final Four.

Ackerman then faced Stark in one of the opening matches

Fiji-based Tammy Ackerman, seen here in action during a local tournament in 2011, advanced to the finals of the consolation draw in the girls U14 singles event of the 2013 Australia Post Margaret Court Cup that concluded yesterday in Albury, New South Wales, Australia.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



yesterday morning and extended her streak before bowing to

the No. 8 seed Chorlida Kang in the finals on the same morn-

ing, 3-8. Ackerman and Stark's semis tiff was set for 8am (7am Saipan time) and it finished at 9:06, while the finals match was scheduled for 10:30am and was also completed after an hour.

Though she fell short in the finals, Ackerman's performance in the girls U14 singles this year was better than her debut in the same tournament in 2012. She lost her first game in the main draw of the U12 singles last year, bowing to Jasmin Starr, 7-6, 4-6, 6-7, and won only one match in the consolation draw. In the U12 doubles, Ackerman and Mercy Jane Eze fell to Je-nae Bangweni and Jaslyn Skil-

beck right in the first round, giving the former a dismal 1-2 record in her first stint in the Post Margaret Court Cup.

This year, the 13-year-old Ackerman posted an 8-3 record with a 66.7 winning percentage in singles (4-2) and 50 percent in doubles (1-1). She won six sets and lost five for a 54.5 winning percentage and had a 62-59 games won/loss record.

Meanwhile, Negahr Rastguiry and partner Ayana Rengiil of Palau missed a finals appearance in the girls U14 doubles when they fell to their seeded foes last Monday afternoon.

The Pacific Oceania tandem

lost the one-hour and two minute semis match to top-ranked Alana Bourgeois and Lauren Smiles of Australia, 4-8. The seeded pair was scheduled to face Kang and Jaskiewicz in the finals yesterday afternoon and results of the match were unavailable at press time.

Mikayla Lopez also dropped her last match in Albury, as she bowed to No. 5 Maggie Snowdon in the battle for third place in the girls U16 singles yesterday morning, 6-1, 6-1.

From Albury, Lopez and company headed to Victoria to compete in the 2013 Victorian Junior Grasscourt Championships, which will run from Jan. 9 to 13 at the Wodonga Tennis Centre. *(Saipan Tribune)*

QQ, SSFM rout foes

QQ Rent A Car and SSFM built big leads early in the game en route to beating their respective opponents in the 2012 DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

QQ walloped Pacific Stars/Gualo Rai (0-2) in the curtain raiser, 98-78, to improve to an even 1-1 record, while SSFM went 2-0, following an 80-58 trashing of Saipan TV (1-1) in the second tiff of the night.

Five early triples allowed QQ to create distance against Pacific Stars/Gualo Rai in the first period, which ended with the former ahead, 28-16. Rodney Catalla drilled four treys in the opening canto, while Ben Lisua made the other one, and QQ went on to can 13 shots from downtown to walk away with a 20-point winning margin.

QQ was consistent with its 3-point shooting, making at least two apiece in each quarter. Edwin Camacho dropped back-to-back triples in the second period and scored 8 of his 14 in that canto to keep QQ's dozen-point lead at the break, 54-42.

The advantage ballooned to

as much as 25 in the second half, as only Alex Lauron and Zach Diaz hit baskets in succession for Pacific Stars/Gualo Rai, while Jun Estolas started to slow down in the fourth, as he was preparing for his second game in another league.

QQ, on the other hand, was still hot from beyond the arc, leisurely taking long shots, as Pacific Stars/Gualo Rai simply gave up early, not backing down on defense or challenging its foes' attempts.

Leo Apelo led five QQ players in double figures with his 20. Catalla chipped in 19, Lisua added 18, and Jerome Norita and Camacho contributed 17 and 14, respectively. Lauron had a game-high 22 markers, while Estolas and Diaz logged 20 and 16, respectively.

In the second game, SSFM capitalized on the absence of Saipan TV's key players in the first half and halted the latter's second half rally to take the 22-point victory.

Saipan TV played without Kelvin Fitia and Tim Wesley in the first half, as the duo suited up for a different team in another league and just arrived at Gualo Rai a few minutes before the second half started. Brandon Talania also did not start for Saipan TV and

reported for the game only in the second quarter.

With Saipan TV having a depleted crew, SSFM raced to a 44-22 halftime lead. Rocyl Ritual led SSFM's early attack, making 10 points in the first half, while shooter John Darag came off the bench and fired 9 of the team's last 11 points in the second canto and finished with 12 in the opening half. Jack Lizama, Leo Galarse, and Don Brennan added at least 6 points apiece in the first half, as SSFM clearly dominated Saipan TV's second stringers on the offensive end.

Fitia and Wesley then started for Saipan TV in the third without warming up and teamed up with Talania, hoping to spark a rally. However, the closest that Saipan TV could get was within 14 points, 45-59, with 8:35 left in the fourth. Saipan TV was held to one field goal for more than five minutes after that, while Galarse anchored a short 9-2 rally to secure the win for SSFM.

Galarse and Lizama top-scored for SSFM with 16 markers apiece, while Ritual and Darag added 14 each. Talania had 13 to lead Saipan TV.

First Game

QQ Rent A Car 98 – Apelo 20, Catalla 19, Lisua 18, Norita 17, Camacho 14, Hambros 6, De Guzman 2.

Pacific Stars/Gualo Rai 78 – Lauron 22, Estolas 20, Diaz 16, Galzote 8, Dayrit 6, Mallari 2, Morales 2.

Scoring by quarters: 28-16, 54-42, 70-56, 98-78.

Second Game

SSFM 80 – Lizama 16, Galarse 16, Ritual 14, Darag 14, Brennan 6, Dela Rosa 4, Guintu 2, Echavez 2, Tobias 2.

Saipan TV 58 – Talania 13, Alipio 11, Umali 9, Mariano 6, Anasan 4, Fitia 3, Culala 2, Rioduque 2, Wesley 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-11, 44-23, 56-40, 80-58. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Mobil slips past KFC/Taco Bell, 81-80



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

KFC/Taco Bell's Jack Aranda tries to evade Mobil's Jun Estolas (23) from the baseline during their QQ Car Rental caging barnburner of a match last Monday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Two-time defending QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup champions Mobil found themselves buried in a hole again, but this time found a way to dig out of it in the second half of Monday's late tip against Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Mobil trailed by double figures in the first half, but battled back to make it a one-point game in the third quarter before pulling off an impressive comeback, 81-80, literally in the last three seconds of regulation.

The win evened out Mobil's win-loss record to 1-1, while KFC/Taco Bell (0-2) is still looking for its first win.

In addition, KB/ABCD II Mart (1-0) held on to a sizeable first half lead and overcame OCM Corp/ (0-1), 76-67, in the early feature.

The season continues in Garapan tonight at 6pm with Northern Marianas College/Lions Club's Proa (1-0) squaring off against OMC Corp., followed by Blue Haus (1-0) versus KB Mart at 8:30pm.

KFC/Taco Bell spurted off to a 22-11 lead in the first quarter as Mobil came out cold once again from the get-go.

KFC/Taco Bell's Jawn Joyner led six teammates with 6 points, but it was the group's scrappy defense that raised some eyebrows and created a number a

turnovers that handcuffed Mobil early on.

KFC/Taco Bell kept its foot down and stretched it to a 44-30 margin at halftime thanks largely to the hot hands of Ralph Francisco who rang in three long-range jumpers from behind the arc in the second quarter.

Mobil front man Jun Estolas was held to just a bucket in each of the first two frames as Banjo Basila and Marvin Rabauliman accounted for half of the team's production.

After the pause Mobil employed a much more physical defensive approach and clawed back into the game.

KFC/Taco Bell only managed to log four field goals in the third period and had to earn the rest of its spoils from the free throw line, while Mobil went to work at the other end and pulled within a point, 58-59, heading into crunch time.

Mobil's Elgene Mangali lit the wick with 7 points at the start of the third quarter and Ron Gamboa delivered 8 more to close the stanza. Bryl Alegre's four free throws led KFC/Taco Bell.

With a new life at the start of the final 10 minutes, Mobil finally staked its first lead of the game right away and went on to work out a 75-65 cushion halfway through the period, but KFC/Taco Bell remained hot in pursuit.

The latter trimmed it to a two-possession game at the two-minute warning and back-to-back basket by Joyner knot-

ted the count at 80-all with 19 seconds left in regulation.

Mobil called timeout to set up one final play and received some help from the opposition as Estolas was granted a trip to the free throw line just three ticks before the buzzer. He got one shot to drop and the group fended off the inbounds pass to seal the deal.

Mobil's Gamboa and KFC/Taco Bell's Francisco led their respective squads with 16 points.

In the early game, KB Mart established a stout 29-12 advantage in the first period with a well-balanced attack fronted by Pete Lizama and Tim Wesley who tallied 6 markers apiece.

KB Mart did not let up and pressed on to a 46-25 lead at intermission.

OCM's Ichitaro Faisao scrambled for 10 points in the first half, but KB Mart received contributions from a plethora of donors.

OCM's scoring production improved in the third quarter, but its defensive woes continued as KB Mart remained in control, 57-42, heading into the payoff period.

Despite only accruing 11 points in the third quarter, KB Mart still coasted to the sound victory.

Bernard Aquino led the victors with 20 points, while OCM's Ben Lisua finished with a team-high 14.

First Game

KB Mart 76 – Aquino 20, De Dios 10, Paraiso 9, Lizama 8, Wesley 8, Basa 7, Fitia 6, Norita 6, Ito 2.

OCM Corp. 67 – Lisua 14, Kenty 10, Faisao 10, Dela Rosa 9, Barrios 8, Lauron 6, Montes 4, Tenorio 4, Diaz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 29-12, 46-25, 57-42, 76-67.

Second Game

Mobil 81 – Gamboa 16, De Guzman 13, Estolas 12, Mangali 12, Rabauliman 11, Basila 9, Peredo 7, Camacho 1.

KFC/Taco Bell 80 – Francisco 16, Joyner 14, Alegre 10, Aranda 8, Fernando 8, Palacios 8, De Guzman 7, Manglona 5, Abuel 4.

Scoring by quarters: 11-22, 30-44, 58-59, 81-80.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

QQ Rent A Car's Ham Hambros, center, drives strong to the basket against Pacific Stars/Gualo Rai's Zack Diaz, left, and Danny Dayrit during the third quarter of their game in Division A of the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Celtics beat Knicks in first matchup of the season
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ACL in question as Redskins' RG3 has more tests
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28 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Bama bashes Irish in BCS title game



Alabama players celebrate after the BCS National Championship college football game against Notre Dame Monday, Jan. 7, 2013, in Miami. Alabama won 42-14.

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

M IAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—The coach no longer wears houndstooth. The result is the same. Another Alabama dynasty.



Quieting the Irish by the first play of the second quarter, Eddie Lacy, AJ McCarron and the No. 2 Crimson Tide rolled top-ranked Notre Dame 42-14 for the BCS championship Monday night, locking up a second straight national title and third in four years with another laughter of a title game.

The Bear would've been especially proud of this one—Nick Saban and the Tide romping to the second-biggest rout of the BCS era that began in 1999.

Lacy, the game's offensive MVP, ran for one touchdown and caught a pass for another in the final minute of the opening half, spinning away from the vaunted Notre Dame defense not once, but twice, to cap a 28-0 blitz before the bands even got on the field.

Lacy finished with 140 yards on 20 carries, coming up with two of his best performances in the two biggest games of the year. He rushed for a career-high 181 yards in a thrilling victory over Georgia in the SEC title game, and was nearly as dominant against the Irish. McCarron wasn't too shabby, either, completing 20 of 28 passes for four touchdowns and 264 yards, adding another dazzling effort on top of his MVP in last year's title game.

You could almost hear television sets around the country flipping to other channels, a hugely anticipated matchup between two of the

See BAMA on Page 26

Notre Dame's defense overmatched in title game



Alabama's Eddie Lacy (42) reacts after rushing for a touchdown during the first half of the BCS championship football game against Notre Dame Monday, Jan. 7, 2013, in Miami.

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP SPORTS WRITER

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Manti Te'o stood perfectly still as he took a long look at one of the giant video screens in Sun Life Stadium, studying the replay of an Alabama touchdown.

It was a pose that Notre Dame repeated way, way too often in Monday's BCS title game.

Te'o—widely considered the nation's top defensive player this season—was a non-factor early in the national championship game, and that foreshadowed how the rest of the night went for the Fighting Irish. Overmatched from the opening possession, Notre Dame allowed season highs in points and yardage, simply unable to stop the Crimson Tide.

Final score: Alabama 42, Notre Dame 14.

And yes, it was that one-sided of a game, one that even had Irish coach Brian Kelly crack—**See NOTRE DAME on Page 26**

Saban restless in a way rest of us are not

M IAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—At some point, this much success should have brought joy, or at the very least, a deep sense of satisfaction. It's only made Nick Saban chase each win more relentlessly than the last.

If nothing else, it will be interesting to see him try to top this one. Alabama's Crimson Tide slipped on the BCS crown for the third

time in the last four years Monday night, crushing Notre Dame 42-14 and almost as impressively, forcing a wide grin from its sometimes dour and always serious coach. Small wonder. The win was Saban's fourth national championship, which left him tied with Notre Dame's Frank Leahy for second on The Associated Press' all-time list, and behind only Paul "Bear" Bryant, the most famed
See SABAN on Page 26

By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Columnist

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press.

